UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

HABITAT NEWS

Volume 12
Number 3
December 1990

FOREWORD

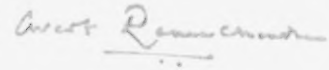
UNCHS (Habitat) is increasingly placing emphasis on the integral role of human settlements in sustainable development, a concern shared by individuals and groups worldwide.

The Global Parliamentarians' Conference on Human Settlements and Development, meeting in Tokyo to strengthen the role of Parliamentarians with regard to the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, adopted a Declaration to that effect, with a request that it be brought to the attention of the Preparatory Committee of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). Similarly, an Intergovernmental Meeting on Human Settlements and Sustainable Development, convoked as a stage in the preparation for the thirteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements and as an input to UNCED, produced a statement on "People, settlements, environment and development".

These shelter and the living environment-related meetings are featured in this issue of UNCHS HABITAT NEWS, as is the first session of the UNCED Preparatory Committee, where delegates spoke of the need for an integrated approach — and for specific consideration of human settlements and the living environment at UNCED, 1992.

UNCHS (Habitat) activities in this area include an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) which discussed human settlements and sustainable development, the launching of the Sustainable Cities Programme, and continued activities in association with other actors in the shelter field. Thus the Centre was represented at such events as the World Congress of Building Officials on the theme "A world of buildings — Towards a healthy, safe and attractive environment" and the World Congress of Local Governments for a Sustainable Future.

Further articles on the theme include a meeting on urban environmental indicators, a study tour on solid waste treatment and management, and EGMs on global energy sustainability and on the energy theme paper for the forthcoming thirteenth session of the Commission. All these efforts focus on the same imperatives from different perspectives — environment and development efforts must proceed in partnership, not competition, and human settlements play an essential role in sustainable development.



Dr. Arcot Ramachandran
Under-Secretary-General
Executive Director

READEX

Table of Contents

FOREWORD 1

UNCHS (Habitat) ACTIVITIES 4

Conference on Human Settlements and Development 4
Extracts from the Tokyo Declaration on Human Settlements and Development 5
International Symposium on Human Settlements, Tokyo: Towards a new, enabling, approach to human settlements development 8
Yokohama International Workshop on Housing 8
People, human settlements and sustainable development 9
People, Settlements, Environment and Development 9
Environment and Development: Partners, not competitors 11
Expert Group Meeting discusses paper on sustainable development 13
UNCHS (Habitat) launches Sustainable Cities Programme 13
"Urbanization and the Environment": WCED Congress 14
Colloquium on Human Settlements and Sustainable Development 15
Global Consultation on Safe Water and Sanitation for the 1990s 15
Housing Debates - Urban Challenges 16
World Congress of Local Governments for a Sustainable Future 16
Planning capital cities 17
The World Summit for Children 17
1990 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities 18
Fourth Conference of the Great Cities of the Americas 18
28th Inter-American Conference for Housing 18
XVIII IAHS World Congress 18
IDNDR International Conference 1990, Japan 19

WORLD HABITAT DAY 1990 20

London 20
United Nations offices 21
Joint celebrations 22
World Scout Habitat Competition 24

INTER-AGENCY CO-OPERATION 25

Urban Environmental Indicators 25
ACC Intersecretariat Group for Water Resources meets 25
Second United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries: Urbanization and promotion of economic growth 25
UNCHS (Habitat)/ECE co-operation for development of human settlements database at ECE 26

TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION 27

Urban Management Programme 27
Habitat in the Arab States: Morocco, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, League of Arab States, Mid-term Review 28
News from French-speaking Africa: Burundi, Congo 29
Bulgaria: Improving housing conditions and rehabilitating historic centres 30
Romania: Re-establishing links with UNCHS (Habitat) 31
Indonesia: Integrated Urban Infrastructure Development Programme continues 31
Somalia: Workshop for Women Community Leaders 32
USSR, United Republic of Tanzania and UNCHS (Habitat) to strengthen Regional Centre for Training and Research in the Human Settlements Sector 33
Study tour on urban solid-waste treatment and management, Thailand 33

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT 34

Housing Strategies and Urban Coherence: International Workshops 34
Training of Trainers Workshop for Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia 34
Collaborative Organizational Management Assessment (COMA) 35
SACDEL seminar on selecting and disseminating projects 35
Workshop on spatial organization of expanding cities 36
Policies for public transport in large cities of developing countries 36
EGM on Global Energy Sustainability 38
Singapore Workshop on Building Maintenance Strategy 38
Energy theme paper EGM 39
Reforming and modernizing land-tenure systems through land-title registration 40

INFORMATION INITIATIVES 41

Video - Curtain raiser for GSS Seminars 41
Marketing fibre-concrete roofing (FCR) tiles 41

NEW FROM HABITAT 42

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 47

Mention of firm names and commercial products does not imply the endorsement of the United Nations.

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

UNCHS (Habitat) ACTIVITIES

Conference on Human Settlements and Development

■ Global Parliamentarians act on Global Strategy for Shelter

The Global Parliamentarians' Conference on Human Settlements and Development held at Tokyo, Japan, from 25 to 28 September 1990, was attended by over 100 Parliamentarians or their designated representatives from more than 50 countries.

The principal aims of the Conference were to:

- Strengthen the role of Parliamentarians with regard to the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 (GSS),
- Learn from each other's experiences and contribute towards the improvement of housing policy and living environments in all countries, particularly developing ones,
- Expand support for the activities of UNCHS (Habitat),
- Increase development co-operation from developed countries to housing and shelter environment sectors in developing countries;
- Make a broader appeal towards understanding that conservation of the global environment is difficult without the improvement of the living environment, in anticipation of the United Nations Environment and Development Conference to be held in 1992.

In pursuit of those aims, participants adopted the Tokyo Declaration on Human Settlements and Development touching on these points and suggesting mechanisms for follow-up actions towards the goal of adequate shelter in the framework of the GSS.

■ Opening

At the opening ceremony, H.E. Mr. T. Kaifu, Prime Minister of Japan, delivered a congratulatory address in which he mentioned the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, the GSS and practical activities towards human settlements and development. After outlining the history of housing in Japan, he spoke of Japanese aid in terms of training, expertise and finance. In conclusion, the Prime Minister expressed his desire for greater international support to UNCHS (Habitat).

The Conference was officially opened by Hon. Senator T. Nakanishi of the Japanese Parliament in her capacity as chairperson of the steering committee of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat and Secretary-General of the Japanese Parliamentarians' League on Habitat. It was presided over by Senator A. Santo of the Japanese Parliament. In her opening address, Senator T. Nakanishi welcomed the participants on behalf of Senator I. Hatoyama, President of the Japanese Parliamentarians' League on Habitat. She expressed profound gratitude to all those who had made the meeting possible, in particular, UNCHS (Habitat) and the United Nations Development Programme, which co-sponsored the conference, the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Land Agency, Tokyo Metropolitan Government, and the Japan International Co-operation Agency. Senator Nakanishi noted that the number of participating countries had steadily increased from eight at the first meeting of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat (held at Yokohama in 1987), and stressed the need to continue to exchange views, experiences and information on human settlements issues. She expressed the hope that the Conference would serve to strengthen solidarity among Global Parliamentarians and enlarge the network to support the GSS so as to contribute to peaceful and sustainable development at both national and international levels.

The President of the Japanese House of Councillors, Hon. Yoshihiko Tsuchiya, delivered a welcoming address in which he noted that problems relating to land, housing and the living environment were critical issues in many countries, including Japan. He drew attention to the developing countries — where the main threat to health stemmed from poor sanitation and the lack of adequate shelter. The Senator stated that the mobilization of global knowledge and international co-operation were indispensable to the solution of human settlements problems.

Mr. S. Suzuki, Governor of Tokyo Metropolis, addressing the Conference.

Opening statements were also delivered by a number of other dignitaries: Mr. Ichiji Ishii, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs; Mr. Kosuke Ito, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for National Land; Mr. Shunichi Suzuki, Governor of Tokyo Metropolis; Dr. Saburo Okita, Former Minister for Foreign Affairs; Mr. Kensuke Yanagiya, President,

Parliamentarians' role

It is very curious indeed that while there is increasing recognition of the coming urban challenge among experts, as expressed in innumerable publications and international fora and meetings, this recognition is not being translated into decisive action at the political and policy levels. Distinguished Participants, I must turn to you in your dual capacities as legislators and political leaders, for the explanation for this inaction must first and foremost be found within the political realm ... I believe this is what has also motivated you to participate in this Conference. Housing, after all, like so many other aspects of human settlements development, is a highly political issue; it directly touches people's lives in a way few other things do. It is an issue of potentially great political appeal. On the other hand, its continued neglect will carry with it, ultimately, a political price.

It will be you who will have to draft, debate and pass the enabling legislation; formulate the national shelter strategies; mobilize the political support; and, finally, assure and co-ordinate implementation at the national level. Housing must be moved from the backbenches of national politics and take its rightful seat front and centre. This will require constant and deliberate advocacy, and it is my hope that you as individuals and the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat as a collective group will be such advocates and will be speaking with a voice loud enough to be heard by all.

Success will not only require such tireless advocacy, it will also require co-operation and the forging of new links both nationally as well as internationally. You, in your political capacity, are singularly suited for this role, and I should hope that you seize it. As for the international level, new links of co-operation must also be formed, and not just for the purpose of solidarity and to exchange information, but also to vigorously lobby for greater attention to housing within international fora and when decisions regarding the allocation of development assistance are made.

Japan International Co-operation Agency; and Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, Executive Director, UNCHS (Habitat). (See box.)

Discussion of major human settlements issues

Dr. Arcot Ramachandran introduced the working paper on major human settlements issues. In doing so, he explained that the GSS sought to establish within each country a regulatory, institutional and legislative framework which could facilitate and accelerate shelter production by the private sector — including formal and informal, community and voluntary organizations, and individual builders — and to incorporate this enabling framework in new or amended national shelter strategies. The Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat) concluded that the success of the Strategy would depend to a large degree on the active involvement of Parliamentarians in their dual role as political leaders and legislators, and on the constant and determined advocacy which the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat could provide. The UNCHS (Habitat) working document, "Human Settlements and Development — The Role of Parliamentarians", set out the issues of direct relevance to the Conference theme, provided a brief background on the issues and highlighted specific points for discussion.

In the ensuing discussions, participants made frequent references to the GSS and mentioned that the resources available to UNCHS (Habitat) needed to be greatly increased. The Conference felt that there was an international dimension to human settlements issues that must be recognized by the international community. It was suggested that a special international fund be established to assist the least developed countries in human settlement development. In this connection, some delegations referred to the heavy debt burden of the developing countries and suggested several options of debt conversion/servicing, including the possibility of converting a portion of these debts (say, 5 per cent) for human settlements development. Such a policy, they felt, would enhance political stability and contribute to improving living conditions of the poorest countries. It was felt that the impact of International Monetary Fund (IMF) conditions had also created serious problems in this regard. The co-operation of international organizations could be invaluable in addressing this issue. Among the other issues raised was the high rate of rural/urban migration. A deliberate policy for the provision of infrastructure and services to the rural hinterland was recommended. In connection with the discussion of major human-settlements issues, many participants presented country reports.

Tokyo Declaration

A committee, chaired by Senator Nakanishi, was set up to consider the text of the draft Conference Declaration, which was then deliberated by the plenary session and in its final form adopted by the Conference as the Tokyo Declaration. The text of the Programme of Action may be found following this article. In the Programme of Action, the Parliamentarians pledged their efforts to work towards the goal of the GSS, mentioning specific actions, programmes and measures in that regard — among them the need to highlight the human settlements environment in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 and to intensify support for UNCHS (Habitat).

A mechanism for follow-up action was drawn up — including the establishment of national-level Parliamentary Groups on Habitat and of Regional Committees of Parliamentarians for Habitat, and the transmission of the Tokyo Declaration to the United Nations Secretary-General and to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, with a request that it be brought to the attention of the Preparatory Committee of the Conference and, in due course, the Conference itself.

Extracts from the Tokyo Declaration on Human Settlements and Development

A. Action by Parliamentarians

We, the Conference participants,

1. *Pledge* ourselves to provide leadership and to support our Governments and people in their efforts towards the development and improvement of human settlements in general, and in particular towards the **achievement of the goal of adequate housing and services for all** at the national, regional and local levels through formulation

and implementation of national shelter strategies and other similar measures;

2. *Further pledge* ourselves to give full support to the **Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000**, adopted by the United Nations, and to its "enabling approach" in which Governments are called upon to establish the legislative and institutional framework which would enable the private sector, both formal and informal, to use its resources to supplement national efforts in producing more and better housing;

3. *Dedicate* ourselves to the following **specific actions** in support of the implementation, at the national level, of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000:

(a) Initiate, support and pass legislation which would lead to the provision of infrastructure required to open up new areas for housing development and to upgrade squatter and other unplanned settlements; introduce and support regulations and standards for housing construction which permit the use of low-cost technologies and local materials;

(b) Initiate, support and pass legislation which would mobilize public- and private-sector finance for housing and related social services, especially for the low-income segments of the population;

(c) Initiate, support and pass legislation where applicable which would encourage the use of private land for low-income housing development including the simplification and speeding up of administrative and planning procedures for land sub-division and land registration.

4. *Further dedicate* ourselves to the support of **programmes and measures** that will:

(a) Promote the housing-construction industry as a strong vehicle of economic recovery and growth, bearing in mind that investments in the construction industry, which tends to be labour-intensive, have substantial multiplier effects as they increase output, income and employment throughout the rest of the economy through the use of inputs from a large number of other industries;

(b) Support measures that will enhance the legal status of women through, *inter alia*, the removal of discriminatory legal, cultural and social barriers which militate against equal access by women to housing, land and finance;

(c) Mobilize the efforts of the poor segments of the population in the construction and improvement of their shelter through community organizations and co-operative societies.

5. *Decide* to work to ensure that Governments highlight the problems of the human settlements environment in the context of sustainable development at the **United Nations Conference on Environment and Development** in 1992, and that these concerns are duly reflected in any recommendations emanating from the Conference;

6. *Also decide* to intensify our support for the programmes and activities of **the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)** which has been charged by the United Nations General Assembly with the responsibility of co-ordinating the activities of the United Nations system in the field of human settlements, and specifically, with the responsibility of assisting Governments in their implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000.

B. Action by the international community

The Global Parliamentarians' Conference on Human Settlements and Development

7. *Further calls* on all **Governments:**

(a) To place a high priority on the development and improvement of human settlements in the national development plans of their respective countries;

(b) To institute effective co-ordination between public agencies and to facilitate dialogue between these agencies and the private sector both formal and informal, as well as community-based groups, in order to determine instruments, mechanisms and incentives which will encourage their active co-operation and involvement in the planning, management and implementation of human settlements programmes within the context of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000;

(c) To take the necessary steps, whenever possible, to facilitate co-operation between shelter organizations and their respective partners abroad, with due regard to relevant national policies;

(d) To accord to local government authorities a substantial role and corresponding responsibilities for the management and development of human settlements;

(e) To strive as a matter of urgency to eliminate, where they still exist, all discriminatory legal, cultural and social barriers to full and equal participation by women in the human settlements development process, bearing in mind not only the need for equality of rights for all citizens but also particularly the decisive roles which women play in determining the quality of family life;

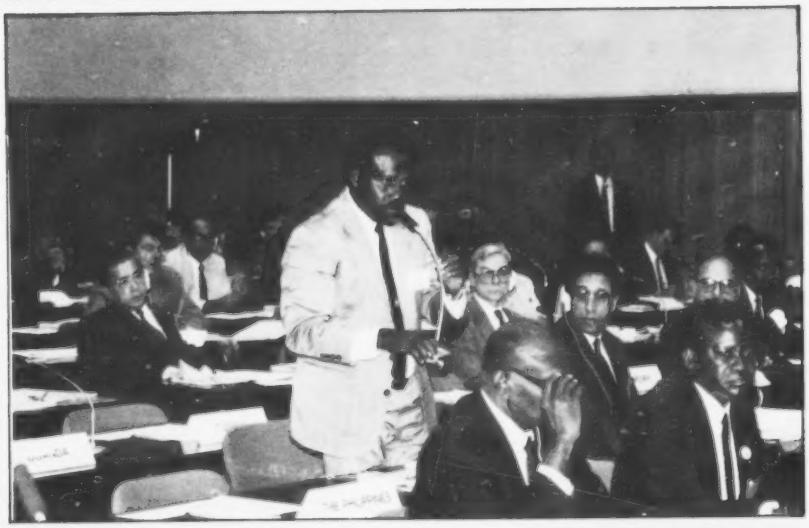
(f) To make or increase, as may be applicable, voluntary contributions to the **United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation**, the financial arm of UNCHS (Habitat), so as, in particular, to facilitate the accelerated implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000;

8. *Urges* **donor** Governments, multilateral and bilateral aid agencies and international and regional financial institutions, including regional development banks:

(a) Urgently to increase significant financial allocation to human settlements development activities in their lending and assistance programmes and to respond more positively to requests from developing countries for assistance in this area, particularly in the context of national efforts to implement the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000;

(b) To co-ordinate assistance to the human settlements sector with other bilateral and multilateral donors in order to ensure that the needs of all developing countries are addressed fully, respecting the overall co-ordinating responsibility and choice of strategy of the recipient countries;

9. *Further urgently appeals* to **creditor** Governments and the relevant financial institutions to consider, in consultation with the concerned developing countries, ways and means of providing effective relief to those countries from their debt burden, which has seriously undermined their ability to carry out much-needed development activities, including especially activities perceived to



Distinguished participants spoke of parliamentary roles and their relationship to habitat concerns, leading to the Tokyo Declaration on Human Settlements and Development.

have no immediate appreciable financial returns, such as those to improve the living conditions of the poorer segments of society;

10. *Also urges* the organized **private sector, non-governmental**, civic and voluntary organizations **and other community-based groups**, including co-operatives;

(a) To give increased emphasis in their activities to housing issues, and to that end to expand their programmes and projects for improving access to housing, infrastructure and related services to low-income groups, particularly the poor in urban slums and rural settlements;

(b) To devote special attention in their work to the needs of vulnerable groups such as women and children, bearing in mind that they are especially well-placed to reach these target groups...

International Symposium on Human Settlements, Tokyo: Towards a new, enabling, approach to human settlements development

The Executive Director of the UNCHS (Habitat), Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, addressing participants at the International Symposium on Human Settlements at Tokyo, Japan, organized by the National Land Agency and the Asian Club Foundation, on 26 September 1990, outlined a new, enabling, approach to human settlements development. The fundamental change required in facing the challenges of rapid urbanization was, he said, that governments move from directly trying to solve urban problems, to an enabling role, and to become facilitators of solutions to problems, solutions which involve the inclusion of non-public-sector actors.

"In defining this new enabling role, the primary objective should be to make cities more productive so that the urban population and the urban economy can make a greater and more effective contribution to long-term economic and social development. At the same time, it will also be crucial that these new policies and programmes ensure that the benefits of this increased productivity be equitably shared by the urban poor, that the urban physical and social environment be safeguarded and, hopefully, enhanced."

This, in turn, meant the strengthening of local governments not only through administrative decentralization but by granting them fiscal autonomy and real decision-making powers. A second change would involve expanding the role of the private sector, including NGOs and community groups, in the provision of urban services. If a new public/private partnership in urban management is to emerge within the framework of a new, enabling, approach to urban development, then infrastructure which serves the private sector would have to be improved, and the antagonism which exists between the public and private sectors, redressed.

These, then, were some of the changes required in the approach to urban development policies in order to overcome deficiencies, prepare for the future, and forge an effective private/public partnership for urban development in the developing countries. "Changes are required in the relations between national and local authorities, as well as between the public and the private sectors, if we are to succeed. The suggestions in that regard that I have made here in my remarks before you today, reflect also the experience of UNCHS (Habitat) and its own efforts to strengthen urban management practice and to promote an enabling approach to urban and shelter development."

Yokohama International Workshop on Housing

The 1990 Yokohama International Workshop on Housing was held at Yokohama, Japan, from 27 September to 1 October 1990, in commemoration of World HABITAT Day. The objective of the Workshop was to discuss the role of the public sector to facilitate the efforts of residents in city development activities. The promotion of women's role in community participation was the central theme.

The Workshop was organized by the City of Yokohama, Bureau of Housing and Architecture, with the support of the Ministry of Construction, the Housing and Urban Development Corporation, the Japan Housing Association and UNCHS (Habitat). It was attended by 35 participants including five overseas participants, two United Nations Centre for Regional Development staff members and three representatives from the Japanese International Volunteer Center (JVC), an NGO; all other participants were senior officers from the administration of the City of Yokohama and from central government organizations.

As the intention of the Workshop was to develop international exchange of experiences and to provide practical suggestions for further co-operation, each of the seven speeches were followed by discussions, and a field visit was organized to a housing renewal project in the Shin-Yamashita area of Yokohama.

The overseas participants from Bangladesh, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand converged in their analysis of the "hidden, non-recognized and untapped" role of women in community activities and in development in general. They also agreed on a list of major obstacles to be overcome to promote the equal participation of women and men in development. The Philippine and Indonesian projects referred to some success obtained in activities involving local and national authorities in partnership with community and women's groups. Participants in general welcomed the UNCHS (Habitat) Programme of Action for women's involvement in the human settlements development and management and expressed their intention to promote it in their respective countries.

Participants to the workshop also attended the celebration of World HABITAT Day organized by the Japanese Housing Association in Tokyo.

The Mayor of the City of Yokohama opening the Yokohama's Women's Forum on 29 September 1990.

Yokohama Women's Forum had as overseas panelists (from left): Dipal Chandra Barua, Deputy General Manager Grameen Bank, Bangladesh; Sylvie Lacroux, UNCHS representative; Aniceta Abion, Director Centre for Housing and Human Ecology Development Foundation, the Philippines.

People, human settlements and sustainable development

The Intergovernmental Meeting on Human Settlements and Sustainable Development took place at The Hague, The Netherlands, from 5 to 9 November 1990. Bringing together participants from over 30 countries, it considered the critical role and contribution of human settlements and urbanization to environmentally sound and sustainable development, and adopted a statement on that topic.

The Meeting had been convoked by the Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat) in accordance with a resolution of the twelfth (1989) session of the Commission on Human Settlements. Following an opening address by Dr. Ramachandran, UNCHS (Habitat) Executive Director (see box for extracts), participants discussed and reviewed crucial issues with regard to the preparation of a theme paper on "Human settlements in relation to the concept of sustainable development", thus assisting in the preparation of an input to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) to be held in 1992.

The Meeting reviewed a UNCHS (Habitat) report on "People, settlements and sustainable development". After a lively discussion of related issues, it decided to adopt the statement "People, settlements, environment and development" (which follows) and to submit that statement to the Secretary-General of UNCED and through him to the Preparatory Committee of UNCED at its next session, to take place early in 1991. It also called on the Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat) to prepare proposals for several concrete actions in relation to future work of the Commission on Human Settlements and its contribution to UNCED — for consideration by the Commission at its thirteenth session, 29 April to 8 May 1991.

People, Settlements, Environment and Development

Extracts from the Statement of the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Meeting on Human Settlements and Sustainable Development, Max van der Stoel, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands

1. Sustainable development means improving the quality of life of all. It cannot be achieved in a world where more than one billion people live in absolute poverty. It is unacceptable and even inhuman to talk about long-term environmental sustainability without considering the short-term problems of mere survival for such a large portion of humanity.

2. The eradication of poverty is a reachable goal. The means exist to develop and implement the policies and mobilize the resources needed to meet this priority goal. A major prerequisite is the solution of the debt crisis with its ever-spreading impact on the economies and living environment of the people in developing countries.

3. Global urbanization will continue. While almost half of the world's population is already urban, by the first quarter of the next century the majority of the world's inhabitants — over five billion people — will live in urban settlements. A growing share of the world's poor will live in rapidly-growing urban agglomerations.

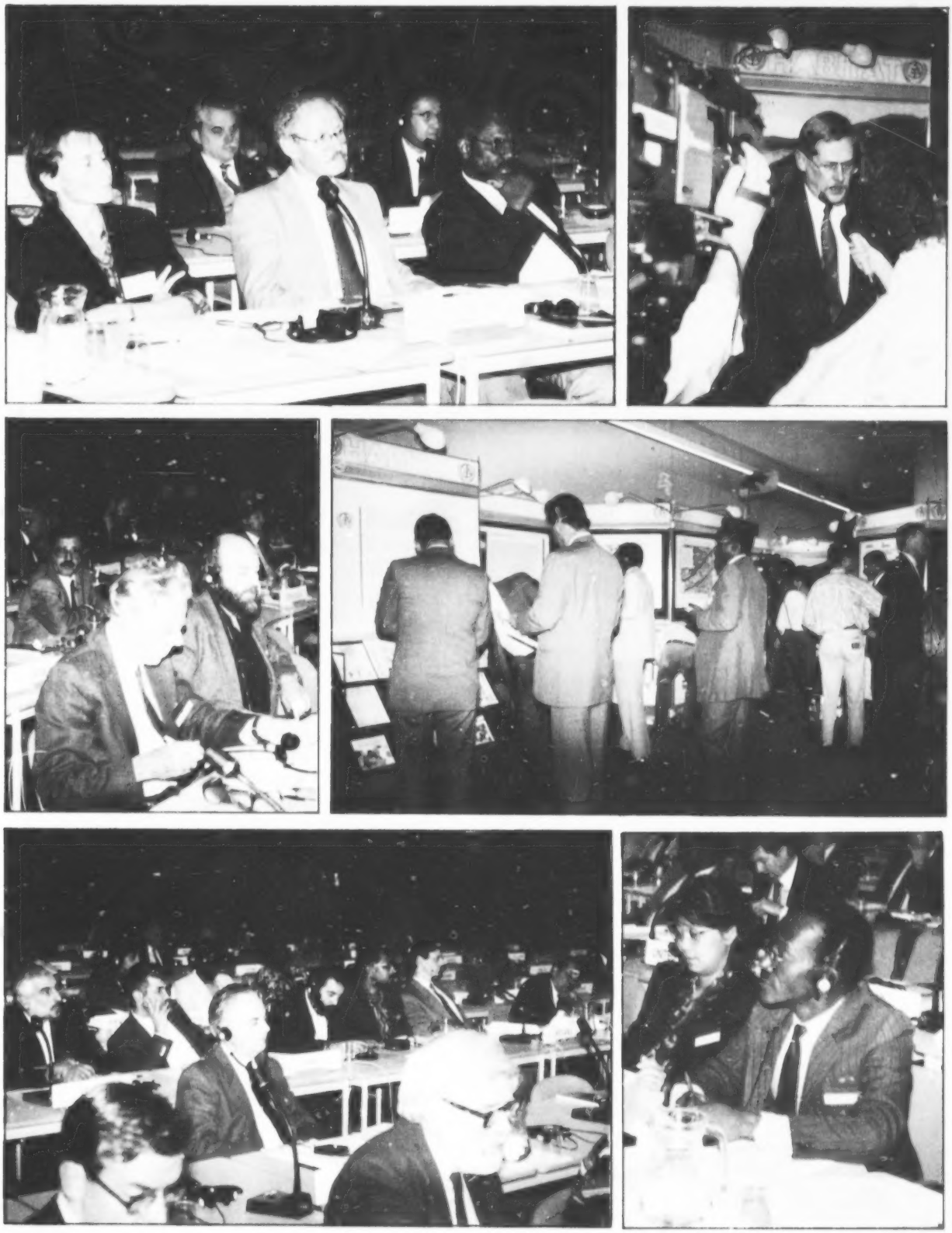
4. The intolerable and worsening living and working environments of the poor in urban slums and rural areas, with their implications in terms of human suffering, deteriorating health and reduced life expectancy, are a major determinant of poverty. Therefore, the improvement of the living and working environment of the poor is a priority concern.

5. The industrialized countries bear the main responsibility of leading the way in changing consumption and production patterns through energy efficiency, efficient use of other resources, replacement of non-renewable resources by renewable ones, and minimization of waste production and pollution.

6. Human settlements, and particularly large urban agglomerations, are major contributors to environmental degradation and resource depletion. At the same time, human

There is no doubt that the forging of a path that can reconcile the imperatives of economic growth and safeguarding the world's eco-system is one of the great issues of our time. It is also an issue of particular consequence to the developing countries, [where] the overwhelming majority of the world's population lives. The path to development which these countries pursue over the coming decades will without doubt constitute a major factor in determining the continued viability of the global eco-system.

It also goes without saying that an ecologically rational system must be accompanied at the same time by a substantial reduction in the voracious resource-consumption pattern and wasteful life styles of the population of the industrialized countries. This is the unadorned truth, the challenge of sustainable development which we must face.



Scenes from the Intergovernmental Meeting on Human Settlements and Sustainable Development (The Hague, The Netherlands, November 1990).

Building in sync with the environment

Space is at a premium in most cities in the world. Finding a place to call home can be quite difficult. The town of Boskoop in the province of South Holland, the Netherlands, is no exception. The people there needed more housing, but the plot that was available was quite restricting. It was narrow (35-40 m) as it was squeezed between the river Gouwe and a busy road. There was the noise of traffic to contend with in addition to the fact that during construction the use of cranes and storage of building materials would be very limited. If those weren't enough constraints, they also wanted to build an environmentally- friendly apartment complex.

They chose a design of two lengths of apartments parallel to the road and river, allowing maximum usage of the plot. The courtyard between the two (12 metres wide by 67 metres long) was roofed-in to minimize the noise from the traffic, but also to offer protection from the weather and pre-heat the air to be used to heat the apartments. The air used for heating and ventilation is taken from the inner court. This allows for energy saving and an easily controlled climate.

The foundation is concrete and the basement houses seven residences, underground parking and storage for the tenants. A wood-frame construction was chosen because of its lightweight system, short building time and minimal impact on the environment (because prefabrication took place in the factory).

In the end, Boskoop had 47 unique, environmentally-friendly and eye-catching one- and two-bedroom apartments to offer its residents.

The covered courtyard of of the new apartments in Boskoop, the Netherlands, is energy-saving as it pre-heats the air to be used to heat the apartments.

settlements, large and small, are also areas of unused opportunities: creativity, economic growth, communication; accessibility for transfer of knowledge; and an efficient and effective attack on waste and pollution.

7. The undesirable environmental implications of settlement growth can be addressed and reversed. Human settlements can be managed in an orderly and equitable manner through participatory and resource-conscious planning and management. This enabling approach applies to all urban functions, such as land use, construction, water supply, sanitation, waste disposal, transport and recreation.

8. Better planning and management of human settlements, including access to and use of environmentally-sound technologies and reduced demand for mobility and transport can produce significant energy savings and therefore help prevent global warming and climate change.

9. A basic prerequisite for achieving sustainable development is the recognition of the role and contribution of women in all aspects of development.

10. International co-operation must be intensified to encourage and support national and local efforts in all countries to achieve the dual objective of sustainable development: meeting the development aspirations of people today and safeguarding the right of tomorrow's generations to do the same in healthy and humane environments.

Environment and Development: Partners, not competitors

UNCHS HABITAT NEWS reports from the first session of the UNCED Preparatory Committee

The first substantive meeting of the Preparatory Committee (Prep Com) for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) was held from 6 to 31 August 1990 at Nairobi, Kenya. This marked the first time that the official delegations gathered to focus their discussions on the direction and content of the agreements and commitments that governments might make at UNCED — popularly known as ECO '92.

The starting point for the Prep Com discussions was the report of the Secretary-General of UNCED, which presented a summary of the secretariat's organizational and substantive work towards UNCED. It included the secretariat's recommendations on such matters as guidelines for the drafting of national reports, its report on cross-sectoral issues from General Assembly resolution 44/228, as well as NGO guidelines for participation in the official preparatory process for UNCED and in the conference itself.

The working groups created at the Prep Com's organizational meeting last March in New York also began their work in Nairobi. Working Group I was assigned the following issues: protection of the atmosphere by combating climate change, ozone depletion, and transboundary pollution; protection and management of land resources by, *inter alia*, combating deforestation, desertification and drought; conservation of biological diversity;

Brazil announces Rio de Janeiro as UNCED venue

UNCED is scheduled to be held from 1 to 12 June 1992 in Rio de Janeiro. Related events in 1992 include:

- A "solemn session", attended by Heads of State and Government, in Manaus;
- A parallel meeting of NGOs in Rio;
- A technology exhibition of environmental protection equipment and products in Sao Paulo;
- A science and technology seminar in Curitiba; and
- An interparliamentary meeting in Brasilia.

and the environmentally sound management of biotechnology. Working Group II examined protection of the oceans and all kinds of seas, including enclosed and semi-enclosed seas and coastal areas, and the protection, rational use and development of their living resources; environmentally sound management of wastes, particularly hazardous wastes and toxic chemicals; and the prevention of illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes.

■ Integrated approach essential

Many delegates felt there was a need for an "integrated approach" to analyse the various issues to be addressed: i.e., that they incorporate broader patterns of consumption and production, investigate access to and transfers of technology, determine financial resource requirements, and look at how to eradicate poverty and improve the overall quality of life when assessing issues of environmental degradation. Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat), in his address to the Prep Com reminded delegates that "no solution to the problem of environment is possible that does not specifically address the everyday needs of people ..." UNCHS (Habitat)'s efforts for more than a decade in improving the human habitat and the living conditions of people had strengthened the conviction that the improvement of conditions in the immediate environments where human beings live and work constitutes a vital step in achieving the overall objective of environmental protection, alleviation of poverty and general economic and social development — sustainable development in short.

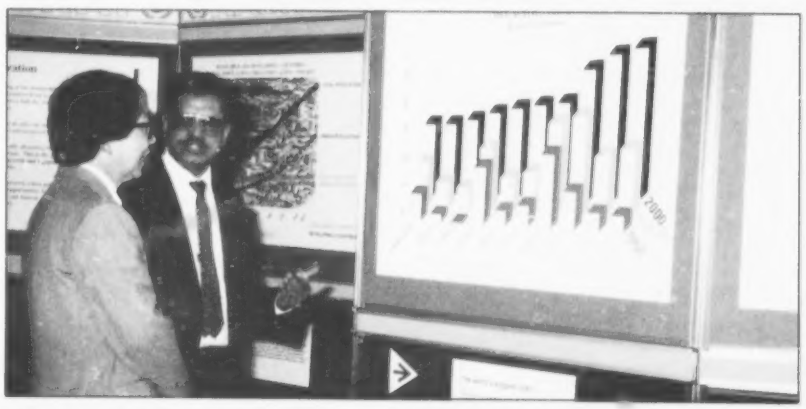
This point of view was underlined during an informal session of the Prep Com's plenary by Mr. Agwu U. Okali, Chief of the New York Office of UNCHS (Habitat). He dealt with the provisions of paragraph 12, subparagraph (h) of Section 1 of General Assembly resolution 44/228 within an integrated framework, which is the human settlements framework. Mr. Okali distinguished three features of that paragraph which provide a clue to its significance. The first is its primary orientation towards **people** and their needs, the second is the strong "**development**" component reflected in it, and the third is the recognition which also contains the fact that harmful **environmental consequences** may, and often do, attend activities in support of the first two elements, that is meeting people's needs and fostering development.

This approach brings particularly to mind the fact that there are so many people in the world today for whom access to basic amenities can by no means be taken for granted. This is certainly the case for the more-than-one billion people worldwide who lack adequate shelter, and is especially the case, of course, for the millions of poor huddled in urban slums and rural shacks throughout the developing world. From the perspective of these people, the most pressing environmental concerns might well appear to be those relating to decent housing, assured water supply, safe domestic waste disposal, and so forth, rather than the other more complex and, no doubt from their viewpoint, long-term environmental issues that are more often discussed.

■ Urging a substantive review

Taking this into consideration, the representatives from a number of delegations

From left to right: Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, Executive Director UNCHS (Habitat) ; Mr. Maurice Strong, Secretary-General, UNCED; Mr. Tommy Koh, Chairman, UNCED Prep Com.



Mr. Tommy Koh, Chairman UNCED Prep Com, being shown the UNCHS (Habitat) exhibit by the Chief, Information, Audio-Visual and Documentation Division, Mr. Ganti Rao.

would have liked to see human settlements and the environment dealt with as a specific substantive topic in the programme of work of the UNCED Prep Com, preferably including review by a working group. Thus Sweden considered UNCHS (Habitat) as the prime actor to tackle human settlements problems by sustainable development and is prepared to contribute funds. The delegate from Colombia found the aspects of urban and rural living environment not appropriately reflected in either of the existing working groups. He said that the subject needed particular attention in a special working group or adequate forum. The Netherlands underlined as well the critical role of UNCHS (Habitat) in meeting the demands of the urban poor, megacities, transport and other infrastructural matters, adding that the intensive network of United Nations agencies and its great potential should be better used by the Committee for the further preparation of UNCED.

In its closing meeting the Prep Com invited the Commission on Human Settlements, the governing body of UNCHS (Habitat), to consider the theme "Human Settlements and Sustainable Development" at its thirteenth session in 1991 and to pay special attention to the agenda and mandate of the 1992 Conference as given in General Assembly resolution 44/228. Particular reference should be given to the living and working environment of the poor in urban slums and rural areas in order to make a substantive contribution to the preparatory process for the UNCED.

The second substantive session of the Preparatory Committee will take place in April 1991 at Geneva.

Expert Group Meeting discusses paper on sustainable development

Meanwhile an *Ad hoc* Expert Group Meeting organized by UNCHS (Habitat) from 10-14 September 1990 analysed the combined impact of rapid population growth, urbanization and human settlements on the Earth's future. A background paper on "Human Settlements and Sustainable Development", was reviewed by an international range of 15 experts. The paper illustrates how human settlements may become one of the keys to sustainable development into the next century. It draws conclusions as to the role of human settlements and of human settlements policies in meeting development goals and in addressing the issue of sustainability at the local, national and global levels. The Expert Group Meeting formulated comments and suggestions on the extent to which the documentation submitted to its review covered the critical problems of sustainable living environments and its management and on how the paper could contribute to the theme being considered at the thirteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements.

In addition, the Expert Group Meeting provided a considerable contribution to a high-level intergovernmental consultation which was to be held at The Hague from 5 to 9 November 1990. (See article in this issue.)

On the basis of these papers, reviews, and the like, the Commission on Human Settlements will eventually be able to adopt the relevant analyses and documentation for the 1992 Conference. The human being will always be in the centre of any UNCHS (Habitat) actions because this approach allows one to see environment and development not as two competing interests but as partners in the service of the same end — human well-being.

UNCHS (Habitat) launches Sustainable Cities Programme

Cities are absorbing two thirds of total population increase in developing countries. They are important centres of productive activity and economic growth. However, the speed of their expansion has brought in its wake a host of serious environmental problems, which if left unattended, will put into question the sustainability of growth and development, and of urban life as we know it. This looming crisis manifests itself most severely in the megacities of the developing world which are on the one hand primary centres of production and services, but on the other beset by environmental problems the dimensions of which already defy existing municipal planning and management capacities.

On 15 August 1990, the UNCHS (Habitat) Executive Director, Dr. A. Ramachandran, launched the Sustainable Cities Programme to address the environmental implications of rapid urbanization. Its principal goal is to provide municipal authorities with an improved environmental planning and management capacity which will strengthen their ability to define the most critical environmental issues, to identify available instruments to address these issues, and to involve all those whose co-operation is required in concerted and practical action. As a global programme, Sustainable Cities is designed to promote the sharing of expertise and lessons of experience between cities in different regions of the world. As an inter-organizational effort, Sustainable Cities will mobilize know-how, technology and financial resources. The Programme continues a process which was started when the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and UNCHS (Habitat) collaborated in the development of *Environmental Guidelines for Settlements Planning and Management*, jointly published in 1987.

Six megacities in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Eastern Europe will initially participate in this programme. **Participating cities** will differ in the type and severity of the environmental problems they face, and in their capacities to address these problems. As a result there will be differences in the scale of initial activities. Some cities will address individual high-priority environmental problems first; others may adopt broader, more comprehensive strategies from the beginning. However, all selected cities will have in common a strong local commitment to resolve their environmental problems, and the approaches taken will share some common elements — such as a commitment to incorporating environmental considerations into continuing development-management practices, reliance on broad-based participation and negotiated rule-making, and emphasis on the use and further development of local expertise.

Working initially in six megacities, the Sustainable Cities Programme will support **city-level activities** in three phases. A three-month start-up phase will culminate in a workshop where environmental issues to be addressed will be defined, involvement of all those whose co-operation is required will be agreed upon, and a work plan for the next phase will be established. A six- to twelve-month action-planning phase will follow. With external technical support as required, city managers and planners will form specialized working groups and a co-ordinating inter-agency task force. Policies for selected environmental issues will be developed, required action for policy implementation will be agreed upon, and continuing planning and management mechanisms will be launched. The mechanisms are likely to address development management at technical, administrative and political levels. They are

likely to provide for information and technical support functions, policy co-ordination functions, and implementation functions using existing facilities and instruments. Other elements of the action plan may include strategic capital-investment projects for internal or external funding. During an open-ended third phase, follow-up and implementation activities will receive continuing support. External technical and financial assistance will be secured through the network of collaborating national and international organizations maintained at the Sustainable Cities Programme-level.

Programme-level activities are aimed at exploiting economies of scale and promoting the reuse of the lessons of experience gained in city-level activities. Aside from selecting, launching and supporting individual city-level activities, the UNCHS (Habitat) Sustainable Cities team will compile a kit of reusable environmental planning and management tools, will capture procedural experience in guidelines that will become increasingly refined, will establish a pool of specialized expertise readily available from collaborating organizations, and will promote a continuing inter-city exchange of know-how and experience through twinning arrangements, workshops and newsletters. In this task, UNCHS (Habitat) will work with bilateral donors, multilateral finance institutions, specialized agencies and other international organizations concerned with the environmental implications of rapid urbanization.

Inter-organizational co-operation is an important objective of the Sustainable Cities Programme. First of all, the Programme is linked to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/UNCHS(Habitat)/World Bank Urban Management Programme and especially its environmental component. Further, it will complement related initiatives of other organizations, such as the World Health Organization (WHO) Healthy Cities Project and the World Bank/UNDP Metropolitan Environmental Improvement Programme. As a facility set up to mobilize contributions from diverse international sources, Sustainable Cities will offer a coherent package of support to participating municipalities. Co-operating organizations will focus with their contributions on different elements of the overall package to be offered. Some bilateral donors may support the action planning process in specific cities. Some specialized agencies might offer specific planning and management tools or contribute to the pool of technical expertise. Some multilateral development institutions may have funding for follow-up capital investment projects in specific sectors, as long as they feel comfortable with the bottom-up action planning process from which these projects derive. Through periodic consultative meetings, the Sustainable Cities Programme will co-ordinate these diverse contributions and contribute to their combined efficiency.

A proposal to use the Sustainable Cities Programme as a framework to address the improvement of the living and working environment of the poor was made by UNCHS (Habitat) during the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Nairobi from 6 to 31 August 1990. It was very well received, and appears likely to become an important element of the Conference's programme of work. The current activities of UNCHS (Habitat) in this area will, therefore, ensure that by 1992 much valuable experience will have already been gained in a Sustainable Cities action planning process. City-level, developing-country practitioners will be in a position to offer to the Conference an improved understanding of practical options for the management of cross-cutting environment/development issues. The collective experience captured at the Sustainable Cities Programme-level will result in a more comprehensive understanding of urban environmental management needs and priorities in developing countries which will enable UNCED to promote complementarities and to fill critical gaps in the assistance available from the international community.

Further information from: Mr. M. Hildebrand, Chief, Technical Co-operation Division, UNCHS (Habitat), P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya

"Urbanization and the Environment": WOBO Congress

The Second World Congress of Building Officials took place at Darling Harbour, Sydney, Australia from 22 to 26 October 1990. Held under the auspices of the World Organization of Building Officials (WOBO) and organized by the Australian Institute of Building Surveyors, New South Wales Chapter, it adopted the theme "A World of Buildings: Towards a Healthy, Safe and Attractive Environment". Thus it addressed issues concerning the broad impact of urban and regional development on the built environment, and the implications for a healthy, safe and attractive environment.

Delivering a keynote address on "Urbanization and the Environment", Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat), looked first at the specific nature and dynamics of environmental deterioration and the underlying forces. These forces were complex and often interrelated: the serious gap between demand and capacity for urban management, the lack of properly priced urban services, excessive regulatory control of land markets, a lack of environmental planning/management and of environmental awareness, and conflict between social and private interests.

Dr. Ramachandran then identified five major urban challenges:

- Improving municipal service coverage and efficiency,
- Improving municipal waste treatment and disposal,
- Initiating co-ordinated pollution-control actions,
- Improving local-government capacity for land management,
- Introducing environmental planning and management techniques into city-wide strategic planning and implementation.

UNCHS (Habitat) concentrated for the better part of the 1980s on supporting national initiatives by providing the building blocks for policy-making and implementation. This included collaboration with the Government of the Netherlands to promote waste recycling and reuse as part of municipal solid waste management among developing countries in Asia, and the production of a range of technical publications and software to help city managers in evaluating waste-disposal management, selecting refuse collection vehicles, designing shallow-sewer systems, assessing appropriate standards and technologies for infrastructure, and so on. In 1986, the Centre provided technical assistance to Sri Lanka in preparing an environmental-impact-assessment manual for industrial and infrastructural activities in urban areas. The Government is now using this manual in its mandatory exercise

for development approvals, while UNDP is promoting its use as a model for other developing countries in the region. These are, he added, but a few examples of the research and technical co-operation activities which are carried out through more than 260 projects in over 100 developing countries — the vast majority of them with components relevant to environmental planning and management.

Colloquium on Human Settlements and Sustainable Development

UNCHS (Habitat) helped organize and participated in a colloquium on Human Settlements and Sustainable Development. Held at the University of Toronto, Canada, from June 21 to June 23, 1990, it was organized by Professor Richard Stren, Director, Centre for Urban and Community Studies, with financial support from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the University of Toronto, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), and UNCHS (Habitat). Its purpose was to contribute, through the preparation and discussion of regional issue papers and overview reports, to a better understanding of the relationship between human settlements development and sustainable development in both developed and developing countries and thus contribute to the Commission on Human Settlement's work in this subject area.

The Colloquium produced research papers (Canada, China, Japan, United States of America, Hong Kong, South-East Asia, Latin America, Eastern Europe, Africa and Western Europe), and a synthesis paper prepared by Professors Rodney White and Joseph Whitney on the basis of a grant from UNCHS. The research papers were extremely informative and outlined some of the crucial sustainable development issues faced by human settlements. The synthesis paper traced development and settlement patterns through history and argues that present global development patterns are unsustainable largely because of development processes led by the developed world, which are primarily responsible for global environmental degadation, infringe upon the existing carrying capacity of developiong regions, and at the same time deprive them of the resources and know-how needed to develop along sustainable patterns.

Global Consultation on Safe Water and Sanitation for the 1990s

Some 400 participants — professionals, civil servants, representatives of bilateral and international aid agencies, NGOs and media people — came together at New Delhi from 10 to 14 September 1990 for the Global Consultation on Safe Water and Sanitation for the 1990s. At the opening ceremony chaired by the Minister for Urban Development of the Government of India, they were welcomed by the Minister for Rural Development, while messages were sent from the President and Prime Minister of that country and from the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Other dignitaries included the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, and the Vice President of India.

Working groups were set up to consider five main themes:

- Creating a safe environment for a better tomorrow;
- Building national capacities, people and institutions;
- Community management, extension and communications;
- Development, application and transfer of technology;
- Financing the sector.

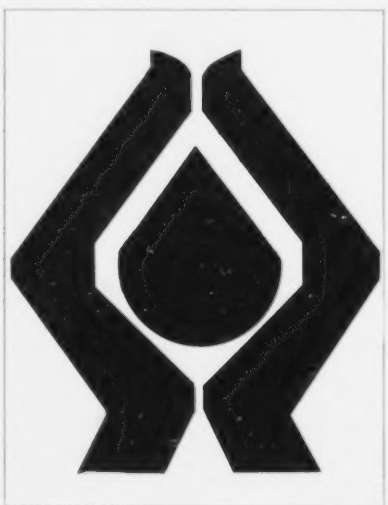
Each group prepared a report on their deliberations which they presented to the plenary. Following plenary discussions, these were used to formulate the New Delhi Statement. The UNCHS (Habitat) representative, Gehan Sinnatamby, served on the first working group. Extracts from the plenary session paper delivered by Mr. K.C. Sivaramakrishnan, Secretary of the Ministry of Urban Transport of India and from the New Delhi Statement follow.

■ Safe Water 2000: Reaching the unserved — the urban scene

"Whether the emphasis is on 'Health for All' or 'Safe Environment', water supply and sanitation are essential requisites." The very first sentence of the UNDP background paper is simple and at the same time chilling in its effect — 'a large percentage of the world's population, generally the poor, remains unserved.' The task, therefore, is clear and permits no ambiguity as to where our focus should be. What is needed is a framework at the policy and the programme levels — national and international."

[It then emphasized certain aspects — protection of water sources, conservation of water, the need to transfer appropriate technologies and equipment, human resource development, and a rethinking of investment priorities in favour of urban water supply and sanitation, and went on to conclude]

"Two years from now the nations of the world will be meeting in Brazil to consider what has happened to the global environment, two decades after Stockholm. While preservation of rain forests, the sustenance of genetic diversity, protection of the ozone layer and coping with hazardous wastes are all very critical, I would respectfully submit that the daily living environment of millions of human beings is also an extremely important and vital issue. If a third of the world's population is condemned to live in an environment of contaminated water and festering waste, there is little to commend the professional, political or ethical strength of contemporary society. I would sincerely hope that our deliberations in this Consultation will enable us



to reach some conclusions and strengthen our commitment for action in the decade ahead."

■ New Delhi Statement

"Safe water supplies and disposal of solid and liquid wastes are priorities for improved health, poverty alleviation and environmental protection. Their provision through community management must be a primary goal for the 1990s.

"Maximizing sustainable water supply and sanitation coverage will require political commitment to apply the many lessons of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (IDWSSD). Use of appropriate technologies, combined with community management and human resource development, will reduce investment costs and improve sustainability. Countries can thus extend coverage with socially acceptable and affordable service standards at achievable investment levels.

"**People and the environment**: Future sector development must be environmentally sustainable and viewed in the broader context of water resources.

"**People and institutions**: Strong institutions are essential for sustainability.

"**Community management**: Community management goes beyond participation to empowering and equipping communities to own and control their own systems and is the key to sustaining services for the rural poor.

"**Financing and technology**: Given the number unserved and the increasing demand, more effective financial strategies must be adopted in the 1990s for the long-term sustainability of the sector.

"**Follow-up**: The conclusions of the New Delhi Consultation will be widely disseminated. The New Delhi Statement will be presented to the UNICEF Summit for Children in late September 1990. It will be submitted by the Government of India to the November meeting of the United Nations General Assembly to review the IDWSSD. In addition, the Statement will be sent to the organizers of the 1992 World Environment Conference in Brazil with a request that it be tabled to emphasize the special importance of water and sanitation in environmental management."

Housing Debates - Urban Challenges

Organized by the French Ministry of Works, Housing and Transport, under the auspices of the International Sociology Association, the International Housing Research Conference (which meets every two years in a different country) was held at Paris at the "Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie" from 3 to 6 July 1990.

Approximately 800 participants, most of them researchers, from some 55 countries took part.

The Conference was opened by the French Minister of Housing, followed by keynote addresses by researchers from Canada, France and the Netherlands, the latter introducing the main debate of the Conference: housing policy vs. housing market.

The major issues discussed in the eight principal workshops of the Conference included housing and public policies; housing tenure; changes in lifestyles and housing; residential mobility and urban change; housing production: systems and actors; metropolitan areas: divided and polarized cities; housing, urban spaces, safety/security; and rehabilitation, new constructions and urban restructuring.

In addition, there were six special workshops which dealt with housing self-provision, disasters and resettlement, housing education; housing models and forecasting tools, methodologies for international comparisons of housing research and policies, and methods of research co-operation in housing projects.

A special feature of the Conference was the organization of plenary round tables on such important topics as "Illegality, Irregularity and Informality in Housing", "Housing Research - the relations between Europe and the developing countries", and the round table of researchers and decision-makers.

UNCHS (Habitat) was represented by two members of staff, Messrs. Daniel Biau and Don Okpala who presented papers to the conference on "Shelter Indicators", and "Housing Production Systems in Developing Countries 1950-2000: What lessons of experience for the 21st century", respectively.

The Conference was mainly devoted to developed countries issues. Some of the conclusions reached were:

- Formal and informal sectors should be allowed greater leverage in housing production;
- Housing research should be inter-disciplinary in approach;
- Both rental and ownership tenure should be encouraged with a view to increasing the total housing stock;
- When comparing housing research on an international scale, it is important that terms and concepts are well defined and that data reliability is ensured; and
- Find more effective ways of improving communications/dialogue between housing researchers and decision-makers/developers and adapting traditional housing research to be used by decision-makers/developers.

World Congress of Local Governments for a Sustainable Future

United Nations Headquarters, New York was the site for "The World Congress of Local Government for a Sustainable Future" from 5 to 8 September 1990. Sponsored by the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Union of Local Authorities and the Centre for Innovative Diplomacy, the Congress was attended by 400 participants who came mainly from the local authorities and whose aim was to launch a new direction in global environmental protection: acting locally for a sustainable future. This stems from the recognition that global environmental problems can only be solved through a restructuring of day-to-day practices at the local level.

Fifteen strategy sessions discussed topics such as recycling, municipal sewage treatment, reduction of carbon dioxide emissions and urban planning and design. Mr. Towfighi attended the Plenary Session on "Sustainability: A view from the Southern Hemisphere". Ms. Aliye P. Celik, Human Settlements Officer for the UNCHS (Habitat) New York Office, was a panelist in the Strategy Session in Urban Planning and Design, where she spoke about the situation in developing countries, problems related to over-crowding, the need for urban manage-

ment, and issues to be considered (such as provision of land, indigenous, affordable systems for sanitation, water supply, appropriate building materials). It was attended by over 350 participants — who were very enthusiastic to take the floor — most of whom said that they were relieved to hear the voice of the developing countries. Many of them requested information on UNCHS (Habitat) activities.

Delegates were also asked to design a new international environmental agency, the International Secretariat for Local Environmental Initiatives, to promote and co-ordinate worldwide local government programs to address global problems such as the greenhouse effect, ozone depletion and environmental degradation in the developing world. It will also operate an international information and technical assistance clearing-house, and work with private corporations, research centres, local and national governments, and international organizations to increase co-operative programmes and technology transfers (particularly to the developing world).

Planning capital cities

The second Conference of the Capitals of the World took place at Dakar, Senegal, from 11 to 13 June 1990. It was opened by H.E. Mr. Abdou Diouf, President of Senegal, and by Mr. Mamadou Diop, Mayor of Dakar. A total of 46 capital cities, mostly of African or Arab States, were represented, about a dozen of them by their mayors. Among the cities representing the developed world were Ottawa (which hosted the first such conference in 1987), Tokyo (which will host the third conference in 1993), Bonn, London, Paris, and Washington. The African Development Bank (ADB), UNCHS (Habitat) and the World Bank were also represented, as were the French Ministry of Co-operation and the United States Agency for International Development.

The Conference was organized in three stages. During the first day, seven presentations were made by researchers and representatives of ADB and UNCHS (Habitat). During the second day, three workshops discussed issues related to administration, environment and infrastructure. The last day was devoted to workshop reports and the closing ceremony.

■ Constraints in planning and managing capital cities

Capital cities in developing countries are confronted with three major constraints — demographic, financial and institutional. While the demographic constraint cannot be removed, the financial resources and institutional capacities of capitals can be improved with appropriate strategies which give priority to urban management.

To improve the financial management of municipalities, one must increase their revenue and at the same time distribute their expenses more efficiently. In order to improve on income received from taxes, the key words are simplification, flexibility, increased responsibility of the communes, and personnel training. A per capita tax of 5,000 CFAF collected each year, originating equally from land, economic activities and the use of public property (particularly markets), would enable any African capital to cover its basic expenses.

As for technical management, municipalities must handle three types of urban services: road maintenance and extension, including drainage; the collection and treatment of household garbage; and implementation and maintenance of basic socio-economic requirements (primary schools, dispensaries, marketplaces, etc.). The road network is certainly one of the main concerns of third world capitals; maintenance alone can cost 1000 CFAF per resident each year in African capitals. Efficiency in garbage collection can be raised enormously through a wise selection of technical solutions (equipment used for collection, sorting, treatment plants, waste recycling). Neighbourhood facilities must be supported by financial and human-resource contributions on the part of residents.

In the area of technical management, errors in design and shortfalls in organization can totally imbalance city budgets; professionalism is thus a determining factor. Hence the need for foreign aid to train personnel, build local capacities and provide materials for municipal services — institutional support which must be backed by offering support to clearly-identified and worthwhile projects.

The World Summit for Children

The World Summit for Children, held at United Nations Headquarters at the end of September, was attended by 72 Heads of State or Government, for whom on 29 September a reception was hosted. The Summit began on 30 September in the General Assembly Hall with the welcoming statements of the two chairmen, President Moussa Traore of Mali and Prime Minister Brian Mulroney of Canada, and of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Statements were made by two of the four initiating countries: President Carlos Salinas de Bortari of Mexico and Suzanne Mubarak, the First Lady of Egypt. President Bush of the United States of America also made a statement, which was followed by a statement by Mr. James Grant, Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The morning discussion continued in the ECOSOC Chamber and was devoted to three subjects: ensuring child survival, protection of children and enhancing child development. Some Heads of State or Government made specific references to the **inadequate housing conditions that afflict children.**

The Prime Minister of **Dominica** said that many children and their families still lived in inadequate housing conditions and that it was hoped that the Summit would devote attention to that area.

The President of **Venezuela** stated that street children should be protected and that this problem should be solved.

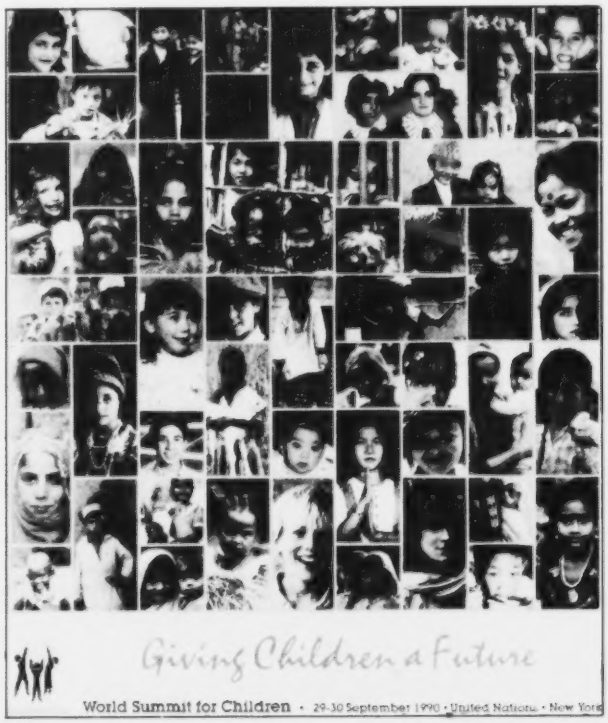
The President of **Bulgaria** drew participants' attention to outstanding problems with the housing conditions of children.

The President of **Brazil** said governmental priorities must be reallocated and resources concentrated on social programmes in the areas of housing and sanitation. He talked about an emergency housing programme that had been in effect to reduce the housing shortage and provide sanitation and water supply to the poorer people in his country.

The Prime Minister of the **United Kingdom** mentioned the importance of a home for a child's well-being.

The Prime Minister of **Saint Christopher and Nevis** said housing was needed to create an environment conducive to development.

The President of **Mali** and Summit Co-Chairman said that children needed love above all, followed by security preservation



of their right to food, health, education, housing and, most of all, to hope and justice.

The leaders signed the Summit Declaration in which there is a reference to homelessness under the title "Challenge", saying "Each day, millions of children suffer from the scourges of poverty and economic crisis, from hunger and homelessness, from epidemics and illiteracy, from degradation of the environment." There are also a number of references to the lack of clean water and also inadequate sanitation. The plight of street children was mentioned.

UNCHS (Habitat) presented an exhibit on Shelter and Child. UNCHS colouring books, the publications/video catalogue, *Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000*, World HABITAT Day kits and posters were distributed, and relevant publications displayed.

1990 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities

The 1990 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities was held on 1 and 2 November 1990, at United Nations Headquarters in New York. Pledges for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 1991 were made by Bangladesh, Belgium, Bhutan, Chile, China, Colombia, Egypt, Finland, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Morocco, the Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Senegal, Sweden , Tunisia, Turkey, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), Venezuela and Zimbabwe. Sweden doubled its pledge, the USSR increased its pledge substantially and Senegal pledged for the first time. Many traditional donors such as France, Japan, Norway, and the United States of America, were not in a position to pledge at the time of the Conference because of necessary legislative actions. Assuming that they pledge at least the same amount as for 1990, the total pledges for 1991 will be around $US 5 million against $US 4.5 million for 1990.

Fourth Conference of the Great Cities of the Americas

Buenos Aires, Argentina, was the site of the "Fourth Conference of the Great Cities of the Americas" from 24 to 28 September 1990. Over 150 participants from the United States of America and Latin America focused on the new opportunities decentralization and private-sector participation are offering the human settlements field.

On behalf of Dr. Ramachandran, Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat), Mr. Luis Castro delivered a speech on "Public and Private Co-operation for Development: New Opportunities for Municipalities" during the second plenary session under the theme "Opportunity for Municipal Governments by Creating Public/Private Partnerships with the Private Sector for Community and Economic Development". The participants, mainly mayors and local authorities from the public sector, showed great interest in the various programmes UNCHS (Habitat) is involved in — particularly the urban management programme of the Technical Co-operation Division. Many inquired as to how they could receive technical assistance from UNCHS (Habitat) on housing infrastructure and transportation.

28th Inter-American Conference for Housing

Geared towards the private sector in Latin America, the 28th Inter-American Conference for Housing emphasized the financial aspects of housing. It was held from 1 to 4 October 1990, at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The opening plenary session was devoted entirely to the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 (GSS). A UNCHS (Habitat) representative delivered a speech entitled "The Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000: The Foundation for National and International Action". The 300 participants, mainly from the banking field, showed tremendous interest in the GSS and had many questions as to how they could help implement the GSS and where they could get more information. Some participants even expressed interest in participating in UNCHS (Habitat) GSS seminars in their own countries.

XVIII IAHS World Congress

"Buildings in the Future: Concepts and Technologies" was the theme of the Eighteenth International Association of Housing Science (IAHS) World Congress held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 8 to 12 October 1990.

On behalf of UNCHS (Habitat), Mr. Luis Castro chaired a panel on Shelter 2000 — the main focus of which was the GSS. The Conference was attended by about 300 par-

ticipants from various research institutions and private developers worldwide. There was marked interest in the GSS even though before attending the Conference most participants had heard little to nothing about it. The following morning, the same UNCHS (Habitat) representative delivered a keynote address entitled "The Impact of Construction Technology on the Environment" on behalf of the Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat), Dr. A. Ramachandran (see box).

For the better part of this century, the environment was usually considered as an adverse factor as attention was given to protecting construction from the environment — earthquakes, cyclones, and the like. However, it is now well recognized that every operation related to construction produces environmental effects such as resource deterioration (depletion of forests, energy and land); physical disruption (noise pollution, disruption of wildlife habitats and water tables); chemical pollution (air pollutants, asbestos, CFCs, carbon dioxide, accidental spillage and careless waste disposal).

This calls for careful consideration when determining the design of and materials for construction. Does the material come from a renewable source? Can it be recycled? Is the extraction process environmentally disruptive? What are the hidden environmental costs?

In the future, environmental specialists will work closely with architects and structural engineers from conceptual design stage through final implementation. Some European countries and the United States already insist on environmental impact assessments (EIAs) for all capital projects. The European Community has also adopted the Construction Products Directive which stipulates that commencing in 1991, the burden of proof will shift to the manufacturer to demonstrate the fitness of a product.

UNCHS (Habitat) is committed to support national efforts towards sustainable development. For example, it is currently assisting six megacities in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America to develop improved environmental management and planning capacity on a sustainable basis.

IDNDR International Conference 1990, Japan

In observance of the first year of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) and to welcome the first annual International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction, Japan hosted the IDNDR International Conference 1990 Japan from 27 September to 3 October ,1990 in the Ciy of Yokohama and in Kagoshima Prefecture. Participating in the conference were approximately 1300 administrators, scientists and experts from 43 countries and 16 international organizations.

Participants reported on the damage caused by natural disasters in various parts of the world and discussed the present status of organizational systems for disaster countermeasures (including prevention, preparedness, relief, and recovery) and their weaknessess in each country. Also discussed were the themes that must be further studied to promote disaster countermeasures, and disaster prevention and reduction in terms of regional development and urbanization. Through the exchange of knowledge and views on natural disasters, they gained a greater recognition of the need to see natural disasters and countermeasures from a global point of view and were strongly motivated to make every effort towards a less hazardous world in the twenty-first century.

Panel discussion at the XVIII IAHS Congress on Buildings in the Future: Concepts and Technologies. Panel members included Mr. Luis Castro (second from left) of UNCHS (Habitat).

Dr. Ramachandran, Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat), at the IDNDR International Conference.

WORLD HABITAT DAY 1990

London

■ Habitat Scroll of Honour

At this year's World HABITAT Day celebration, held on 1 and 2 October 1990, at the British Academy of Film and Television Arts in London, Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat), announced the recipients of this year's Habitat Scroll of Honour, UNCHS (Habitat)'s international award for outstanding contributions made to the improvement of human settlements by individuals, organizations and projects.

Lord Scarman, a High Court Judge in the United Kingdom, was the only individual to win this year's award. He was recognized for his outstanding and dedicated work for the homeless and the poor in the inner-city regions of London, especially in the area of human shelter. After the Brixton riots in 1981, Lord Scarman began an inquiry into the community's housing problems. Five years later, as he toured Brixton in his capacity as British president of the United Nations International Year of Shelter for the Homeless Trust, he was shown several new housing projects for the homeless, but observed that many more improvements were necessary. He called for temporary shelter for young black families, sheltered accommodation for the elderly and disabled, and affordable housing tenures.

The Scroll of Honour was also awarded to the **Tangshan Municipal Government** in China for its notable achievements in city reconstruction after the earthquake of 1976, including provision of shelter for the homeless. Their accomplishments included immediately establishing temporary housing after the quake; scientifically organizing the construction; regenerating public service facilities; adopting district heating and piped gas to prevent pollution; and adopting earthquake-proof designs. Tangshan Municipal Government successfully settled the shelter crisis after the earthquake.

Another recipient was **Construyamos** of Colombia, an organization recognized for its wide-ranging achievements in the construction of housing projects using community participation. Since 1982, Construyamos has developed and consolidated 152 self-help building community-based organizations; linked 12,000 families to its federation; obtained credit for self-help housing construction, rural housing, building materials and land; obtained technical assistance and loans of equipment and building materials; and set up inter-institutional committees for technical assistance to communities.

The Scroll of Honour was also awarded to **CRATerre** - International Centre for Earth Construction of France for its long-standing promotion of the use of earth as a building material; the organization has advanced its cause through research, application, consultancy, training and publication. During the past 15 years, CRATerre has trained hundreds of technicians and architects in the use of earth and published various books and manuals on that subject.

The **Stone Town Conservation and Development Authority of Tanzania** was also recognized for the Rehabilitation of Zanzibar Stone Town Project; this project — which involved UNCHS(Habitat) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) — was noted for its innovative rehabilitation of an historic area with due attention given to the needs of its residents. The participants restored buildings and areas of architectural and cultural importance, through the development and use of indigenous building materials. This project is an example of how historic districts can be rehabilitated using appropriate technology and materials at minimum cost.

The final recipient of the Scroll of Honour was **the Human Settlement Foundation of Thailand** for its Ruamjai Samakki Resettlement Project. This project was acknowledged for its unique and replicable approach to resettling evicted squatters, based on community participation. In the past six years the people of the Ruamjai Samakki Community have made concerted efforts to upgrade their quality of life. They demanded compensation from the land owner when evicted in 1987-1988; bought a piece of land that they divided amongst themselves; set up the Ruamjai Samakki Housing Cooperative for purchasing the land; and resettled their community with regard to both physical and social surroundings. The project benefits 1100 people from 190 families.

■ The Building and Social Housing Foundation Habitat Awards

Costa Rica, Japan and Venezuela were the recipients of the World Habitat Award for 1989, presented by the Building and Social Housing Foundation (BSHF), a housing research and education institution based in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The awards were presented during a special ceremony by the Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe, Q.C., M.P., (then) Lord President of the Council, Leader of the House of Commons and Deputy Prime Minister, on 2 October 1990 at the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, London. Mr. Peter Elderfield, Director of the BSHF, was present. Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, the Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat), addressed the guests at the ceremony.

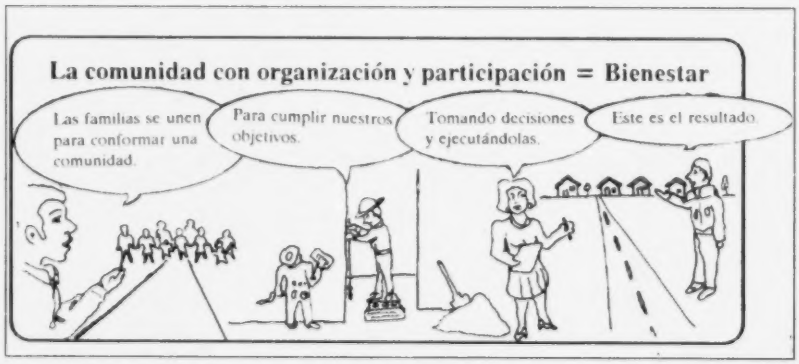

La comunidad con organización y participación = Bienestar
Las familias se unen para conformar una comunidad.
Para cumplir nuestros objetivos.
Tomando decisiones y ejecutándolas.
Este es el resultado.

Illustration from a Construyamos pamphlet on the benefits of community participation.

The National Housing Programme of **Costa Rica** 1986-1990 received an award. The solution to the country's housing problem, a decision arrived at by the Government, was to construct 80,000 housing units, an ambitious plan given the economic situation of the country. Yet, four years later, through public, private and community partnership, the goal was achieved. President Oscar Arias Sanchez described the housing programme as "the most significant achievement of his Government".

The reconstruction of the city of Hiroshima and the Danbara re-development project (**Japan**) are winners of one of the awards. The first project is an elaborate reconstruction and upgrading exercise to create a "city of rivers, greenery and culture" that would serve the cause of world peace. The Danbara re-development project was started in 1983 and is scheduled to be completed in 1995. It entails the construction of new public housing, basic infrastructure, and recreational facilities.

The National Housing Institute of **Venezuela** (INAVI) won its award for enthusiastic efforts to provide homes for all by the year 2000. The "Progressive Habitat" project includes provision of suitable land for housing the poor, infrastructure and community services.

United Nations offices

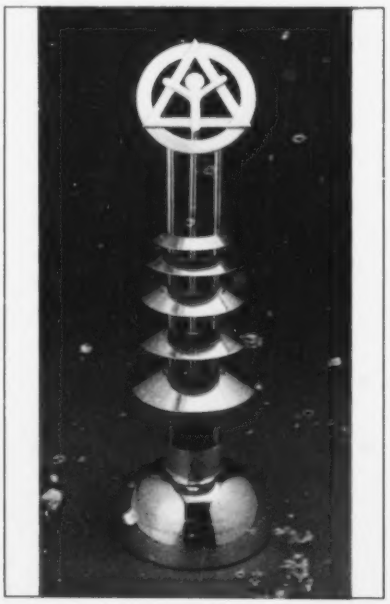
The World HABITAT Day ceremony in New York was part of the Shelter and Community Conference on Sustainable Development in Industrialized Nations. The Challenge of Decent and Affordable Housing for All, which was attended by NGO representatives, students and teachers. The Conference opened with the introductory statements of Ghislaine Hermanuz of the City College Architectural Center, New York, while Mr. A. Okali, Director of the New York UNCHS (Habitat) office, made a statement and read the Secretary-General's message. Ms. Marilyn King, Pathways to Peace, made a statement on the importance of the Day, the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 (GSS) and how the objectives outlined in the Strategy could be achieved. A reception in the Ceremonial Hall followed. In the afternoon of the first day and morning of the second day, three concurrent panels took place; they all reported to the plenary in the afternoon of the second day. At the plenary, panel members made recommendations to UNCHS (Habitat). Caroline Pezzullo, Chair, United Nations NGO Committee on Shelter and Community/Society for International Development, offered the concluding remarks.

In **Geneva,** World HABITAT Day 1990 was celebrated by an informal social gathering at the UNCHS (Habitat) office there. Guests included Mr. J. Martenson, Director-General United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG); Mr. Palm, Chief, Human Settlements Section of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE); Mr. López-Polo, Chief,

Geneva staff welcoming Guenter Karl from Research and Development Division, UNCHS (Habitat).

The National Housing Programme of Costa Rica received a World Habitat Award for 1989.

Japan had two projects which were winners of the World Habitat Award for 1989.



Venezuela's National Housing Institute won the World Habitat Award for 1989 as well.

Environment and Human Settlements Division, ECE; and Mr. P. Mehu, Director, Information Service, UNOG. Representatives of the International Labour Office (ILO), Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO) and Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) were also present. Mr. G. Karl, in Geneva on a mission from the Nairobi office, demonstrated the latest version of HSDB.stat. World HABITAT Day kits and posters were distributed to the media, NGOs, universities and schools, as well as to various institutional organizations.

Joint celebrations

At a number of places, celebration of World HABITAT Day 1990 included participation beyond the country's borders. In **Kenya**, venue of **UNCHS (Habitat) headquarters**, Mrs. Pamela Mboya, Kenya's Permanent Representative to Habitat; Mr. Darshan Johal, Director, Office of Programme Co-ordination, UNCHS (Habitat); and Mr. Fred Gumo, Chairman of the Nairobi City Commission were among those present at the colourful celebration which included processions, dancing, and a choir competition on the theme of the Day in addition to speeches by distinguished members of the Government of Kenya and readings of the message of the Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat) and of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. H.E. Mr. William ole Ntimama, Minister for Local Government, delivered a speech on behalf of the Minister for Lands and Housing, H.E. Mr. Darius Mbela, noting that the Government of Kenya was working on a new national housing policy in which comprehensive initiatives would be outlined to enable the private sector and NGOs to participate more fully in the provision of housing. The official ceremony, attended by members of the diplomatic corps, was followed by exhibitions by governmental, private-sector, academic and non-governmental organizations. In **Jordan**, World HABITAT Day and Arab Housing Day are celebrated together. Thus a television film on the achievements of the Government of Jordan and the housing sectors in Arab countries was produced by the Housing Corporation and transmitted over national television, as was the UNCHS (Habitat) video spot. Posters both from UNCHS (Habitat) and the **League of Arab States** were distributed to government offices and other human-settlements institutions. (See page 29.)

In **Mexico**, the Day was commemorated at the Secretariat of Urban Development and Ecology (SEDUE), with representatives of UNCHS (Habitat), UNDP and Habitat International Coalition, the shelter-sector NGO. The entire ceremony was covered by television and the press. The UNDP Resident Representative, Mr. Carlos de Castillo, read the message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and the UNCHS (Habitat) Information Officer read that of the Executive Director of the Centre. Two local television channels showed documentary films supplied by UNCHS. Similarly, in **Thailand**, the Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) joined hands with the Royal Thai Government in observing the day through the lead agency, the National Environment Board. Its Chairman, H.E. Major-General Sanan Kajornprasat, Deputy Prime Minister, was the guest of honour at a brief ceremony also addressed by Mr. S.A.M.S. Kibria, Executive Secretary of ESCAP. Activities included opening of the exhibition on urbanization and shelter, award presentations to six communities in Bangkok which had improved their settlements, and presentation of prizes to the winners of a design competition, "Livable slums", organized by the Department of Architecture of Chulalongkorn University. NGO, government and community co-operation were featured in a videotape on the Ruamjai Samakki Co-operative presented at the opening and throughout the exhibition period.

The Netherlands centred its activities around the city of Bangalore, India, which

On hand for the Kenyan World HABITAT Day celebrations were, from left to right, Mr. J.K. Sang, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Lands and Housing, Kenya; H.E. Mr. W. ole Ntimama, M.P., Minister for Local Government and Physical Planning, Ministry of Local Government and Physical Planning, Kenya; Mrs. Pamela Mboya, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Kenya to UNCHS (Habitat); and Mr. Darshan Johal, Director, Office of Programme Co-ordination, UNCHS (Habitat).

Illustration from the CONAVI/UNDP poster advertising Habitat Week in Paraguay.

had been selected — with the consent of the Indian Government — as the focal point for many Habitat-related activities in the Netherlands in 1990. Speeches were given on how assistance in the field of human settlements could be provided in a well-co-ordinated manner based on experiences in Bangalore. Various organizations active in Bangalore also took part. In addition, attention was given to the (draft) Memorandum on Development Co-operation — soon to be presented to the Parliament of the Netherlands. **Paraguay** celebrated Habitat Week from 26 September to 1 October, a joint effort of the National Housing Commission (CONAVI) and the United Nations in Paraguay. The President of the Republic, General Andrés Rodriguez, inaugurated 160 low-cost houses in the city of Fernando de la Mora. He was accompanied by all the Cabinet Ministers, military chiefs, members of the Supreme Court of Justice, Members of Parliament, and NGO representatives, as well as the Resident Co-ordinator of the United Nations System and Director of the United Nations Information Centre Office (UNIC), Mr. Hans D. Kurz. In other activities, panelists from the Government, NGOs and political parties focused on problems and possible solutions around this year's theme of shelter and urbanization, and there was a press conference.

Most countries also included representatives of various sectors in events for World HABITAT Day 1990. In the **Bahamas,** activities included the opening of two additional Government-sponsored low-cost housing subdivisions — one in Nassau and the other at Kemps Bay, Andros Island; a street-naming competition in Eight Mile Rock, Grand Bahama; and a low-income housing design competition. The Government of **Bhutan** reaffirmed its commitment to the improvement of the human habitat and its support of the GSS. Local press covered the commemoration, which included a video show and exhibition-cum-discussion on housing and construction technology.

The radio programme sent by UNCHS (Habitat) for use on the Day was distributed by the UNIC Office in **Ethiopia** for broadcast use. The second Ghana Real Estate Developers' Association (GREDA) Housing Show, an international exhibition, took place at Accra, **Ghana**, during the first two weeks of October in combination with the Subregional GSS Seminar and the World HABITAT Day function — which was graced by the presence of the Head of State, Flight Lieutenant J.J. Rawlings. (These events are covered in more detail in the November 1990 issue of the UNCHS (Habitat) SHELTER BULLETIN.) Held under the auspices of the Ministry of Works and Housing on the theme "Housing more people", the Show exhibited designs of affordable and culturally relevant houses, promoted the manufacture and use of locally-produced building materials, and educated the public about professional services available — including financial and mortgage arrangements.

Ceremonies in **Guinea** took place under the direction of the Minister and Permanent Secretary of the Military Committee of National Recovery, with many prominent figures in the Committee and the Government present. Lieutenant-Colonel Babacar N'Diaye presented an introduction to housing in Guinea, with attention to Conakry and to the four regional capitals. Among other items on the Day's agenda were discussions of such questions as "What is the difference between shelter and housing?" and "What are the results of the promotion of local building materials in home construction?".

Flight Lieutenant J.J. Rawlings, Head of State and Chairman of PNDC, Ghana, inspecting one of the exhibition stands after opening the combined GREDA Housing Show, the UNCHS (Habitat) Subregional Seminar on National Shelter Strategies for English-speaking West African Countries, and World HABITAT Day 1990 celebrations at the Trade Fair Centre at Accra, Ghana. Looking on from left to right are Mr. William D. Opore, GREDA and Mr. Brian Roberts, Chief Technical Adviser, UNCHS (Habitat).

Among the many activities taking place in **India** on the occasion, the Centre for Human Settlements organized a "Workshop on Shelter for the Homeless in Calcutta: Problems and Prospects". Among the speakers were the Executive Director of the Centre, a social worker, grassroots worker and a representative of the local squatters. Participants noted the need for a long-term development programme with Government-NGO co-operation. In Bangalore, the Institution of Engineers (India), Karnataka State Centre, sponsored the celebration of the Day, including a panel discussion. TVRI, the national television network in **Indonesia**, aired the video on the 1990 World HABITAT Day theme, plus news of the celebrations on two prime-time spots, over both the English News Service and the national late news on 1 October. Two IYSH Memorial Prizes were awarded at the World HABITAT Day celebration in Tokyo, **Japan** — the Matsushita Prize going to Mr. Arif Hasan of Pakistan, and the Yasuda Kasai Prize to Sister Aniceta Abion of the Philippines. Mr. Hasan is a consultant with the Orangi Pilot Project, Karachi, while Sister Abion works as a Catholic sister offering advice and guidance on various aspects of community organization and betterment. The Chairman of the Japan Housing Association, the Chairman of the IYSH Memorial Fund Operation Committee, the Hon. Minister of Construction, Mr. Tamisuke Watanuki, and the prize winners offered speeches at the award ceremony.

In **Nigeria**, World HABITAT Day 1990 coincided with the anniversary of that country's independence. The Works and Housing Minister, H.E. Major-General (rtd.) Mamman Kontagora, held a press conference to mark the occasion, at which he pointed out that the influx of people into urban centres had led to severe over-crowding, acute housing and sanitation problems, traffic congestion and degradation of the environment. Measures taken to alleviate the situation included access to shelter-related ancillaries such as land, finance and building materials by prospective home-owners. Activities planned in the **Philippines** included

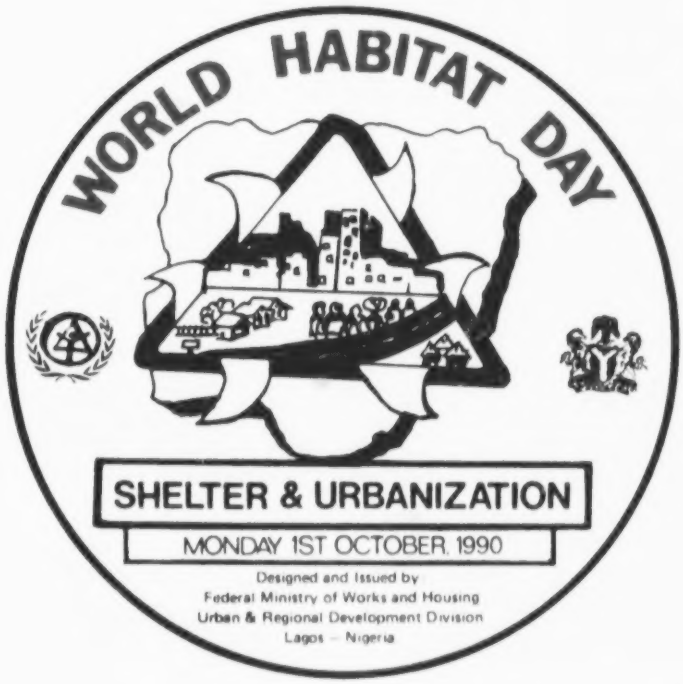
a Workshop on Mass Housing and Residential Density Issues, co-ordinated by the Housing and Urban Development Co-ordinating Council and UNESCO, and a tour of a Community Mortgage Program project of the Home Insurance Guarantee Corporation at Malaban, Binan, Laguna. The latter Program was also part of the work of Sister Abion, and was mentioned in her acceptance speech for the IYSH Memorial Prize. The National Housing Institute (INH) of **Portugal** held a seminar on the shelter problems of the low-income population together with Oeiras Municipality, which had been a candidate for the Habitat Scroll of Honour 1990. In **Senegal**, the Ministry of Works, Transport and Housing planned a round-table discussion over radio and television with press participation as early as 27 September. Related events — including radio interviews and a visit to the Dalifort project, which would serve later as the theme of a public conference at the Chamber of Commerce — were to continue. H.E. Mr. Mohammed Hawaldi Matai, Prime Minister of **Somalia**, participated in the special function organized at the Ministry of Public Works and Housing. Activities of UNCHS/UNDP low-cost housing project SOM/87/004 were shown, and a demonstration of the production of low-cost building materials was undertaken. The Minister of Public Works and Housing, H.E. Mr. Mohamed Sadi Herso Morgan and the Resident Representative of UNDP, Mr. Osman Hashim, also commented on the success of that project. In **Trinidad and Tobago**, press information kits were distributed to the media for coverage of World HABITAT Day 1990. **Venezuela** designated the entire month of October as Habitat Month. Participants from the Government, private sector and academics met to search for solutions to secure shelter for the poorer segments of society in a forum organized by the National Housing Council. A number of prizes for the following year were launched on the same occasion, with the Minister of Urban Development, H.E. Mr. Luis Penzini Fleury, calling a press conference. Later in the month a national housing convention was held to discuss different shelter-related themes, with a workshop on 31 October bringing Habitat Month to an end.

World Scout Habitat Competition

In co-operation with UNCHS (Habitat), the World Organization of the Scout Movement organized a competition in the context of the GSS to encourage and reward contributions by Scouts towards improving human settlements. Each Scout entry, which comprised photographic presentations and supporting text, was judged by members of the World Scout Committee during their annual conference held at Paris in June 1990. The judges selected the entry from Zaire as the overall winner because although the project was ambitious, it was simple enough to be implemented by the young people themselves.

Over 100 Scouts from the Shaba Province of **Zaire** worked with the villagers of Kapiri to restore their local canal to its original state by removing all the debris that had built up over the past 50 years, build a stone and cement riverbank to prevent debris blockage and install pipes for irrigation. In addition, over 1000 Scouts and villagers from Lubudi and Mutshatsha, also part of the Shaba region, built 76 houses, five schools with six classrooms each, a health dispensary, a maternity centre, two community centres and six latrines for the communities.

Two other entries (**India** and **Indonesia**) were highly commended by the judges. In India, the Scouts raised money so 45 families in a slum area of the Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh could buy land and build houses that would withstand the rainy season. The Scout and Guide Association of Indonesia helped the people of Lebak Harjo village build stone houses, new sanitation facilities, an appropriate drainage system, six kilometres of road and a sturdier bridge that would withstand the recurring floods.


WORLD HABITAT DAY
SHELTER & URBANIZATION
MONDAY 1ST OCTOBER 1990
Designed and Issued by
Federal Ministry of Works and Housing
Urban & Regional Development Division
Lagos – Nigeria

INTER-AGENCY CO-OPERATION

Urban Environmental Indicators

A technical working group meeting on urban environmental data was held at Barcelona, Spain, from 25 to 29 September 1990. The meeting was a follow-up to a Consultative Meeting on Urban Environmental Data and Information Systems which took place in September last year at the World Bank in Washington D.C. The meeting was hosted by the Mancomunitat de Municipis de l'Area de Barcelona and the CITIES programme (sponsored by the United Nations Population Fund, the Ministry of Public Works and Urbanism of Spain and the Metropolitan Corporation of Barcelona, it has collected statistical, administrative and graphical information on major urban areas of the world), and co-sponsored by the joint UNDP/World Bank/UNCHS (Habitat) Urban Management Programme. UNCHS (Habitat) was represented by Mr. Guenter Karl.

The objectives of the technical working group were to agree on an analytical framework for resolving urban environmental problems, define a common set of indicators within that framework, and recommend priority urban data-collection activities by cities and countries as well as international technical assistance efforts to support such activities.

Given the time available, a problem-oriented approach was favoured — one which simply identifies central urban environmental problems to serve as the basis for drawing up a set of core indicators. The urban environmental concerns identified were as follows: water resources and supply and sewerage/sanitation; municipal and industrial wastes; transportation; energy use; air pollution; noise pollution; land use; housing conditions and health conditions. On that basis, core indicators for each urban environmental problem were elaborated, giving particular attention to their usefulness for policy-making and high probability of successful measurement in cities of the developing world.

The principal recommendations of the working group can be summarized in two proposals: one regarding the testing and application of the core set of urban environmental indicators, and the second on establishing mechanisms for the management and exchange of urban data, including urban environmental information on a global level. Concerning the first proposal, it is noteworthy that the group plans to work out a survey instrument to be tested in a number of cities, presenting it to the Secretariat of United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). With respect to the second proposal, UNCHS (Habitat) is currently pilot testing the design of a global city database; the working group in its recommendations urged UNCHS (Habitat) to continue to develop and expand the coverage of the database.

ACC Intersecretariat Group for Water Resources meets

Representatives of some 18 United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and related organizations met at the headquarters of the World Meteorological Organization in Geneva from 3 to 5 October 1990. Among the documents discussed was one entitled "Water resources: progress in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan — strategies and measures for the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan in the 1990s". The UNCHS (Habitat) participant, Gehan Sinnatamby, pointed out that one of the critical areas which developing countries would be required to cope with over the coming decade would be that of the environmental consequences of efforts to satisfy the large water demands exerted by rapidly growing urban centres.

Another agenda item of particular interest to UNCHS (Habitat) was related to the forthcoming Conference on Water and Environment to be held at Dublin in January 1992 as part of the preparatory work for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held in Brazil later that year. The group discussed a draft programme for the Dublin Conference and agreed that a special working group should be devoted to considering special environmental problems arising from the supply and use of water in large urban areas. UNCHS (Habitat) was entrusted with the task of developing this theme and preparing a detailed action programme to address related environmental issues for consideration at the Dublin Conference.

Second United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries: Urbanization and promotion of economic growth

The Second United Nations Conference on the least developed countries was held from 3 to 14 September 1990 in Paris, France. It was opened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations at the Headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The mandate of the Conference was to review the progress of the least developed countries (LDCs) both at the country level and in terms of international support, particularly in official development assistance. The Conference also considered effective policies that would advance the socio-economic development process in the LDCs during the 1990s.

Mr. Sumihiro Kuyama, Deputy Administrator, United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, delivered a statement on behalf of Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat). The speech was concerned specifically with "Urbanization and the renewal of economic growth in the least developed countries." The statement made reference to the fact that the per capita income of 41 LDCs in the 1980s increased by only 1.2 per cent per annum, which is less than the rate of population growth.

Dr. Ramachandran's statement reviewed reasons for the slow growth as well as various solutions to this problem which could be used to revitalize the economies of the LDCs. Reliance on the natural and human resources of these countries and the development of their potential technological capacities has been overshadowed by the emphasis put on generating foreign exchange. Partial dependence on national production and consumption is necessary to control the fluctuations of prices on the international market.

One plan for generating internal economic activities, incomes, and markets for the consumption of national products includes the advantageous use of the urbanization process in LDCs. Urbanization, if properly managed, could also lead to the sustainability of development by creating improved techniques of resource management. In order to achieve sustained growth in the LDCs, however, technical and financial assistance from external sources would be required. Although there has been growing concern over the harmful effects of city growth, Dr. Ramachandran concluded that urbanization contributes positively to economic development, capital accumulation and social development in developing countries.

The main objective of UNCHS (Habitat) would be to assist governmental and community organizations of LDCs in creating self-reliant development capacities at both national and local levels; the Centre would also help to mobilize capital investments needed to finance the development of human settlements.

UNCHS (Habitat)/ECE co-operation for development of human settlements database at ECE

At the beginning of this year, a staff member of ECE visited UNCHS (Habitat) to learn about the Centre's Human Settlements Statistical Data Base (HSDB.stat) project, with a view to establish a similar computerized database for the ECE region.

The Human Settlements Section of the ECE, which is in charge of compiling and publishing the *Annual Bulletin of Housing and Building Statistics for Europe*, is in the process of establishing a microcomputer database in order to store and retrieve statistics on human settlements for tabulations of that Bulletin.

Subsequently, Mr. G. Karl, a UNCHS (Habitat) staff member, visited ECE on 1 and 2 October to advise ECE staff involved in the database project on commercial software selection and in-house software development based on the experience from the Centre's HSDB.stat project.

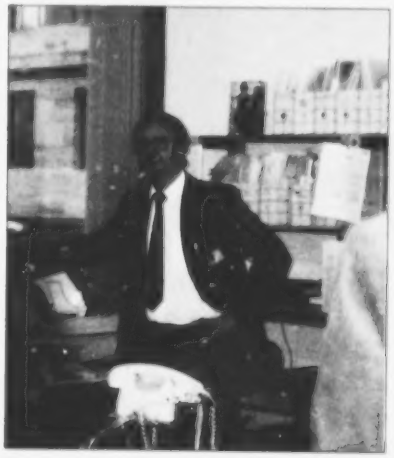
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS STATISTICAL DATA BASE

Efficient long-term decision-making is a strategic element of any environmental sustainability consideration. Decisions are as good as the information they are based upon.

The Human Settlements Statistical Data Base (HSDB.stat), which was developed in the Centre, is an important tool for making quantitative information quickly available at the policy-makers' fingertips.

As can be seen below, a wide range of statistical topics covered as HSDB.stat are directly relevant to issues of sustainable development.

- **DEMOGRAPHICS**
  - TOTAL POPULATION
  - VITAL STATISTICS
  - URBAN/RURAL POPULATION
  - CITY/U.A. POPULATION
  - HOUSEHOLDS
  - MIGRATION
- **LAND**
  - LAND USE
- **ECONOMY**
  - NATIONAL ACCOUNTS
  - LABOUR FORCE
  - INCOME DISTRIBUTION
- **INFRASTRUCTURE**
  - ENERGY
  - WATER SUPPLY
  - SANITATION
  - TRANSPORTATION
- **HOUSING**
  - HOUSING CONSTRUCTION
  - HOUSING INVESTMENTS
  - BUILDING MATERIALS
  - HOUSING EXPENDITURE
  - HOUSING STOCK & SIZE
  - HOUSING FACILITIES
  - TENURE OF HOUSEHOLDS



Guenter Karl demonstrating HSDB.stat in Geneva.

TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION

Urban Management Programme

The Urban Management Programme (UMP) is a concerted, multilateral effort to support developing countries worldwide in improving urban management. Planned to cover the decade 1986-1996, the Programme is executed jointly by UNCHS (Habitat) and the World Bank, with funding by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (INT/86/006) and with direct financial assistance, in-kind contributions and parallel supportive efforts by several multilateral and bilateral external support agencies (ESAs).

Phase I of the Programme examined three subjects of critical importance for urban management: urban land management, infrastructure management, and municipal finance and administration. A new subject, the urban environment, was added to the UMP at the beginning of 1990. Early work under the Programme, divided between UNCHS (Habitat) and the World Bank, explored various aspects of these issues. A number of case studies were undertaken in connection with projects supported by UNCHS (Habitat) and the World Bank throughout the world. The main conclusions of this work are discussed in a series of policy framework papers and implementation tools.

As Phase I of the Programme ends, and Phase II starts, in-country and subregional activities that promote improved urban management policies, programmes and practices are being expanded. This is in pursuit of the Programme's ultimate objective — capacity building. In line with this, a series of consultations with national counterparts are being conducted by UMP staff in various parts of the world in collaboration with research and training institutions, government associations, regional and subregional networks, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and concerned ESAs.

■ Nairobi Workshop on Capacity Building

A Workshop on Capacity Building in Municipal Governance: Land, Infrastructure, Municipal Finance, and the Urban Environment, was held on 20 and 21 September 1990 at UNCHS (Habitat) headquarters in Nairobi to discuss the development of an African regional strategy on capacity building, organized by the UMP. A number of noted African experts on urban management issues took part in the Workshop. Many of them represented regional and subregional networks of research and training institutions, governments and NGOs, such as the African Regional Network of Urban Management (ARNUM), the Centre for African Settlement Studies and Development (CASSAD), the Association of Local Government Authorities - Kenya (an affiliate of the International Union of Local Authorities - IULA), the Mazingira Institute, and the Habitat International Coalition (HIC).

■ Spelling out roles, responsibilities and resources

One of the Workshop's major conclusions and recommendations was the critical need for an explicit urban development policy for African countries that clearly spells out the role of cities in national economic development and defines the relationships between central government and local authorities. The participants emphasized the importance of clarifying the role of local authorities for the delivery of urban services in relation to that of central government, and the related issue of revenue sharing. It was pointed out that accountability, as a feature of effective urban management, is very much dependent on this definition of responsibilities and relations.

The Nairobi Workshop noted the specific request of the Mayors of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), who have formed an association of ECOWAS capital cities, for assistance in preparing the framework for the proposed association and for administrative support to its secretariat. The proposed association was viewed with enthusiasm and regarded as both timely and relevant to the development of an African strategy for capacity building in municipal governance. The UMP indicated its interest in helping the proposed association to get started, and suggested that the Chairman of the Association and one member of the steering committee visit UNCHS (Habitat) and discuss what assistance might be most strategic. It was mentioned that it would be possible to bring together CASSAD, the African sections of IULA, and the United Towns Organization to help set up the proposed association under the framework of collaboration of the UMP, both immediately to ensure the success of its inaugural meeting in Freetown, Sierra Leone, in January 1991, and on a more long-term basis.

■ Singapore Meeting on Regional Staff Exchange

In a related development, on 23 and 24 August 1990, the UMP held the organizational meeting to launch the Regional Staff Exchange Programme for Urban Management (RAS/89/008). Senior-level representatives from six of the eight participating countries met in Singapore to discuss the specific subject areas as well as the modalities and timetable for the exchange. In attendance were representatives from Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines, and Thailand. The Singapore Urban Redevelopment Authority, which hosted the meeting, also participated.

With the aim of building capacity through learning-by-doing, the participants identified their priority areas of interest: infrastructure planning, implementation, operations and maintenance; municipal finance; slum upgrading and community participation; and town preservation. With this as a framework, the initial exchanges were scheduled for the period 19 November to 11 December 1990, with Indonesia, the Philippines, Nepal and Thailand as host countries. Participants identified national institutions in each country that would be involved in the subsequent phases of the programme, conducting operations-related research and training programmes, and developing appropriate training materials, with and for national train-

ing institutions, using the staff who participated in the exchange.

■ Applying operational guidelines and implementation tools

Meanwhile, work under Phase I of the Programme has generated a number of outputs in over a dozen topic areas. These policy frameworks have been based in large part on a series of case studies undertaken by developing-country experts and institutions. While the policy frameworks serve audiences at the policy-making level in developing countries as well as staff of ESAs, they also represent important intermediate steps in the process towards specific operational guidelines and implementation tools for urban management practitioners.

One specific Phase I output is the case study on Standards and Cost of Infrastructure and Shelter in Botswana and the Southern African Region, undertaken by UNCHS (Habitat) with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). It has had a major impact on the policy and regulatory framework for infrastructure and land development in Botswana. The study found that by selecting appropriate standards, very significant savings on investment costs were possible without significantly affecting service levels. It was demonstrated that, subject to a few comparatively minor adjustments in design standards, it is possible to achieve cost savings of up to the order of 50 per cent in servicing 45,000 plots in Gaberone. The Government of Botswana is now undertaking major programme policy and engineering reviews to determine how best to implement the study's recommendations.

Other examples include:

- The new UNDP/UNCHS project in Thailand on Involving the Private Sector in the Provision of Urban Services (THA/89/020) which resulted from the UMP case study in Thailand on the private sector's role in municipal service delivery;
- The adoption and translation into Nepali of the UMP outputs on integrated action planning by the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) of the (then) Federal Republic of Germany within the framework of the Urban Development Through Local Efforts (UDLE) project, which is now being used by district engineers in Nepal on settlements-planning responsibilities at the local government level; and
- The drafting of a new town and country planning law in Trinidad and Tobago, where the UMP study on the existing town and country planning systems identified principles which should be followed in developing a new legal framework.

(See also article under Inter-agency Co-operation.)

HABITAT IN THE ARAB STATES

■ Morocco

The preparatory phase of the national land-use plan project, MOR/88/014, was launched in Morocco at the beginning of August 1990. The 15-month project is expected to prepare eight sectoral studies on natural, financial and human resources, industries, services, national infrastructure, transport, and the protection of the environment. It will also prepare an operational methodology to guide decision-making and execution. Moroccans will be trained both locally and overseas on land-use and regional planning. Upon completion of the first phase, the second phase is expected to use all the data collected and the analysis thereof in the form of different proposed scenarios in order to prepare the national land-use plan.

■ United Arab Emirates

The United Arab Emirates is one of the Arab States where UNCHS (Habitat) is extending a wide range of technical assistance. Three of the current projects are funded by the governments of the emirates; the fourth is funded by UNCHS (Habitat). Here we describe one of the first category, involving institutional support to Dubai Municipality.

Dubai City has undergone a dramatic transformation, growing from a small settlement of 60,000 in 1968 to a trade centre of 300,000 known worldwide by 1985. To assist the municipality to meet that challenge, project UAE/85/012 was designed to provide practical innovations to strengthen further its performance while streamlining and simplifying procedures to serve the public. During the course of this $US2.25 million project, focus was put on strengthening self-reliance in various human settlements areas (particularly organization and management), providing urban services and aiding in town planning — with emphasis on the preservation of the environment and women in development.

The Tripartite Review (UNCHS (Habitat), United Nations Development Programme, Dubai Municipality) held in July 1990 extended the project for one more year. In fact, UAE/85/012 became an umbrella for multidisciplinary and comprehensive activities. Apart from the envisaged inputs in town planning, building regulations, contracts, public relations and advertisement control, it recruited over 15 international and national consultants in areas ranging from legal and financial matters, through stores and archives, to waste management and environmental protection and safety.

Some of the specific outputs include:

- The streamlining of procedures relating to job description and classification (including 200 defined functions and 550 job descriptions);
- Improved working methodologies — resulting in increased licensing revenues (from Dhs 129 million in 1986 up to Dhs 204 million in 1989) and decreased costs of overtime (from Dhs 9 million in 1986 down to Dhs 0.7 million in 1989);
- Drafting of a workforce planning and development plan as well as capacity building, including both on-the-job training and overseas study tours and visits (a microcomputer application seminar was also conducted);
- Introduction of new plant species — either appropriate or adapted to the local environment;
- Introduction of efficient techniques and systems in such complex activities as pavement management and land surveying;
- Introduction of legislation and systems for more effective environmental protection;
- Introduction of a more systematic documentation and records management system;
- An active role for women in development, including the public libraries.

■ Yemen

In Sana'a, Yemen, the Tripartite Review of project YEM/88/009 — Assistance to the Ministry of Construction (formerly the Ministry of Transport and Public Works) — was held in July 1990. The project had been scheduled for completion by the end of the year. However, the decision to transfer the venue of the laboratory for testing building materials entailed some delays and added expenses which require the extension of the project for three more months.

■ League of Arab States

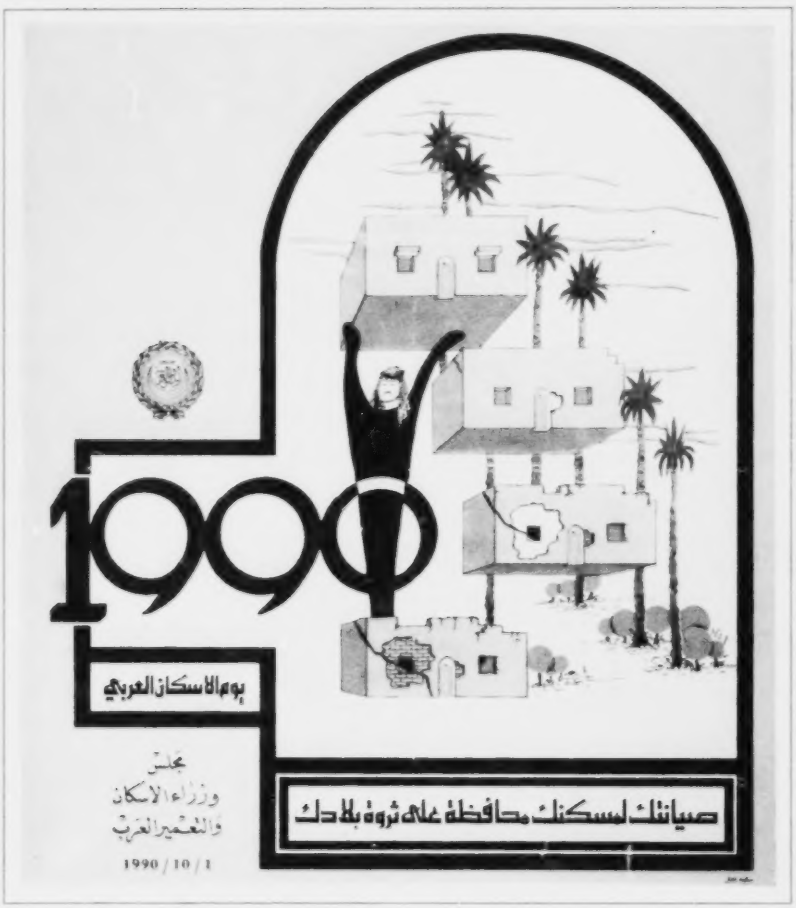
Two meetings were held — at Tunis and Geneva — in July 1990 to co-ordinate UNCHS (Habitat)/United Nations and League of Arab States activities. Five sub-regional seminars have been planned as a result.

■ Mid-term Review

Arab governments, the League of Arab States specialized agencies, UNCHS (Habitat), UNDP, United Nations specialized agencies, and United Nations regional agencies were all present for the Mid- term Review of the Fourth Cycle, Regional Programme for Arab States, 1988-1992 held at Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic from 14 to 16 October 1990.

Recommendations concentrated mainly on enhancing and strengthening food security, science and technology, natural resources, human development, transport and communications, regional and subregional co-operation, development issues, preservation of the environment, the private sector, and trade.

UNCHS (Habitat) was commended as the executing agency of project RAB/89/032 — Training of Trainers in Urban Finance and Management — which renders its assistance to some ten Arab States.



League of Arab States poster commemorating World HABITAT Day 1990.

NEWS FROM FRENCH-SPEAKING AFRICA

■ Burundi: Reinforcement of secondary centres

UNCHS (Habitat), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Ministry of Public Works and Urban Development of Burundi are executing a joint project aiming at strengthening the Government's institutional and technical capacity to orient the development of secondary cities and to bolster their economies directly and indirectly.

The project (BDI/85/010) will end in December 1990, almost three years after beginning to pursue its four main objectives:

- To implement the Government's urban policy with special reference to secondary cities;
- To increase the general knowledge about urban development in Burundi (through data collection and training);
- To promote urban centres' social services by strengthening their economic infrastructures;
- To strengthen national institutions directly related to the management of the urbanization process.

Related project activities have resulted in extensive data-collection in the cities of Karuzi, Cankuzo, Rutana and Makamba, in the setting-up of a databank on general urban development in the country, in an integrated in- and off-service training programme, in the establishment of structure plans for the above mentioned urban centres and — for two of them — the presentation of detailed feasibility studies focusing on the improvement of economic infrastructure.

Phase II

The results encountered have led to the Governments' decision to extend the project's activities to seven other urban centres within the framework of a Phase II project, assisted by UNDP and UNCHS (Habitat), and covering a four-year period starting in January 1991 (BDI/89/022).

The main characteristics of this new project are as follows:

- Project execution by the Government in line with the provisions of the UNDP Programme and Projects Manual;
- United Nations Capital Development Fund financing of infrastructural improvements, including roads, electricity and water-supply networks in two urban centres, the total amount still to be determined;
- UNCHS (Habitat) as co-operating agency (rather than executing agency).

The establishment of the Phase II project is a direct result of United Nations General Assembly resolution 44/211 and UNDP Governing Council decision 88/18, aimed at the national execution of projects and the association of specialized agencies as co-operating agencies. It will be the first project in French-speaking Africa where UNCHS (Habitat) takes the role of co-operating agency in a government-executed project. Keeping this in mind, the Government of Burundi, UNDP and UNCHS (Habitat) have made particular efforts throughout the project's design period in order to allow a smooth and successful transition from the present to the future mode of execution.

An intermediate and a final in-depth evaluation as well as the increasing use of local consultants to replace the external international consultants have been foreseen. The new project can therefore be considered as a pilot project, the success or failure of which will have a far reaching impact on the future design of UNCHS (Habitat)-assisted projects in Burundi and other African countries.

■ Congo: National Shelter Strategy being prepared

In June 1989, the Ministry for Works, Housing and the Environment hosted at the capital city, Brazzaville, the first Conference on Housing in Congo. An average of 60 people, from both the private and public sectors, attended the working sessions, as did representatives of UNCHS (Habitat), UNDP and the World Bank.

Congo is one of the most urbanized sub-Saharan countries. Out of a total population of 2 million, 50 per cent are already living in the two main towns, Brazzaville (650,000 inhabitants) and Pointe Noire (350,000). The urban growth rate is some 6 per cent per annum.

The Conference assessed the housing situation in the country, identified the shortcomings of the housing-delivery system, and called for a new housing policy. These shortcomings are the following:

- While the land officially belongs to the State, the land market is fully informal, with no suitable regulation or tax system;
- Urban roads, drainage and solid-waste collection are the responsibility of local authorities, whose resources are too scarce to allow adequate operation and maintenance. Moreover, urban management is far from efficient;
- Through a 2 per cent tax on the salaries, between CFAF 1 and 2 billion ($US 3 to 10 million) are annually made available for financing housing. However, this budget is collected by the national housing corporation, SOPROGI, which uses it to build an average of 120 high-standard houses per year, selling them at subsidized prices to selected civil servants.

As a follow-up to the Conference, the Congolese Government introduced a request to UNDP and UNCHS (Habitat) for the preparation of a national shelter strategy (NSS). A formulation mission took place at the end of 1989 which drafted the corresponding project document. This document was approved in July 1990, by both the Government and UNDP, under the code PRC/90/002. The project was to start in November 1990 with the recruitment of a Chief Technical Advisor and a United Nations Volunteer. It is focused on urban areas (Brazzaville, Pointe Noire, Loubomo, Sibiti and Owando).

The national shelter strategy project aims at providing seven outputs:

- An assessment of the urban housing situation based on the use of selected Global Strategy for Shelter (GSS) indicators;
- An institutional study, including related recommendations for improving the housing institutional framework;
- A study dealing with housing and land finance, with recommendations on how to set up a housing finance system;
- An analysis of urban infrastructure production, operation and maintenance, both technical and financial, in order to present concrete proposals for improvement;
- The preparation of recommendations for increasing the efficiency of the land market and the land-delivery system;
- A study on building materials and building industry (small entrepreneurs, craftspeople, and the like), including corresponding recommendations;
- A synthesis integrating these six outputs into a draft national shelter strategy, which will be submitted to the Government.

This project constitutes the first national shelter strategy project launched by UNCHS (Habitat) in French-speaking Africa since the adoption of the GSS in December 1988.

Bulgaria: Improving housing conditions and rehabilitating historic centres

The Government of Bulgaria, together with UNCHS (Habitat) and the International Academy of Architecture (IAA) recently hosted an International Seminar on Improvement of Housing Conditions and Rehabilitation of Historic Centres. Held from 10 to 22 September at the Santo Kiriko Creativity Centre, Assenovgrad, Bulgaria, it brought together 18 participants from 13 countries of Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America and one national liberation movement. Experts from various countries, UNCHS (Habitat) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) delivered lectures and led discussions; the IAA also organized professional visits to various historic centres, where participants received detailed information on their preservation/rehabilitation from the chief architects of the towns.

Despite the great diversity of situations within the different countries represented at the Seminar, the discussions following lectures and national reports showed a great convergence of points of view, especially concerning the need to preserve the historic

and architectural heritage while ensuring the participation of residents and taking into account socio-economic factors.

Participants noted that tourism must be developed very carefully — in order not to endanger the very traditions and identity of the local people, or the social, cultural and economic structures which attract tourism. A logical sequence of action was agreed upon: identification of the heritage, motivation of those concerned at all levels, legislation, documentation (through inventory), evaluation, financing, implementation of projects, and use of the renovated buildings.

This sequence was pointed out in a series of recommendations, among them one that UNCHS (Habitat) should recommend to the member States of the Commission on Human Settlements that there be specialized bodies at national, regional or local levels, adequately funded for the improvement of housing conditions and rehabilitation of historic urban centres. Among their tasks would be the organization of education and training for professionals and information dissemination to the public.

This Seminar was a follow-up to one held in 1989 by UNCHS (Habitat), the Government of Bulgaria and the IAA; the 1990 Seminar requested UNCHS (Habitat), UNESCO and the IAA to organize a symposium on the same subject in 1991 to finalize ways and means of a multidisciplinary approach to preservation and rehabilitation of historic centres and the improvement of housing conditions for inhabitants of those areas.

Romania: Re-establishing links with UNCHS (Habitat)

With the emergence of Romania's new Government in December 1989, its ties to UNCHS (Habitat) have been re-established. To bridge the void of information and documentation (none had been received by planning officials since 1979) a UNCHS (Habitat) consultant travelled to Bucharest from 1 to 15 August 1990 to meet various Government officials at the national and regional level.

Three lectures were given informing the Romanian officials about UNCHS (Habitat) activities and the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000. Subjects discussed were why and when UNCHS (Habitat) was established, the organizational structure, responsibilities and work programme; the Commission on Human Settlements and its sessions; the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation; the role and activities of the three operational divisions; computer applications to human settlements data management; and technical and field assistance.

The current situation of the shelter sector in Romania is in a transition period arising from a different governing style and thus requires a total overhaul of practically all codes and regulations. Management models need to be prepared along with new land policies and strategies for operations and maintenance. The use of advanced technology, including the necessary training, is another priority. With these factors in mind, the following proposals were sent to the Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat):

- Consultancy services and training to assist the Romanian Government in introducing the SHELTER computer model to aid in the implementation of the Romanian National Shelter Strategy;
- Use of a Structural Engineering Research Centre (SERC) consultant to advise them in the field of building construction and related computer programs;
- Fielding a UNCHS (Habitat) identification mission to write a project document for an operational model for urban management, to aid in furthering the participatory approaches to shelter and urban service provision with emphasis on the improvement of environmental conditions.

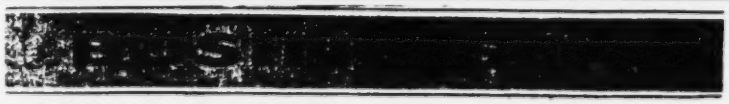
In addition, consideration will be given to the possible involvement of Romanian experts, consultants, volunteers and NGOs in UNCHS (Habitat) technical co-operation assistance projects.

The Romanian Government also informed the Executive Director of their intent to celebrate World HABITAT Day 1990 on a nationwide basis, spotlighting the newly-established contacts between Romania and UNCHS (Habitat).

Indonesia: Integrated Urban Infrastructure Development Programme continues

On 1 June 1990, representatives of the Government of Indonesia, UNDP and UNCHS (Habitat) signed a technical co-operation agreement to continue in support of the implementation of the nationwide Integrated Urban Infrastructure Programme (IUIDP). The Deputy Chairman for Administration of BAPPENAS, Mr. Mustopadidjaya, signed on behalf of the Government of Indonesia and Mr. Galal Magdi, (then) Resident Representative of UNDP, on behalf of UNDP and UNCHS (Habitat), the executing agency for the project, INS/89/014.

As Mr. Magdi noted in his statement on the occasion, "This innovative and most useful project is an excellent example of the effective co-operation between the Government of Indonesia, the Government of the Netherlands, the World Bank (IBRD), and UNDP in assisting the Indonesian Govern-



RI-UNDP Sign Coop Agreement for Urban Development Program

Jakarta (IO) — The Government of Indonesia and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Friday signed an important technical cooperation agreement in support of the implementation of a nation wide Integrated Urban Infrastructure Development Program (IUIDP).

The document was signed by the Deputy Chairman for Administration of BAPPENAS, Mustopadidjaya, on behalf of the Government of Indonesia and Resident Representative of UNDP, Galal Magdi, on behalf of UNDP and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS), the executing agency for the project.

ment to improve the welfare, quality of life and well-being of the Indonesian people, particularly the urban population."

Initiated in 1984 by the Government of Indonesia, IUIDP's immediate purpose is to achieve systematic investment programming and cost-effective implementation in seven key urban sub-sectors: water supply, drainage, sanitation, solid-waste disposal, urban roads, *kampung* improvement and urban market infrastructure. Its long-term purpose is to strengthen the capacity of both central and local governments and enhance private-sector capacity for the provision of public services.

As the Project shifts from the first phase — concerned with the development of the IUDIP concept and operational guidelines plus the formulation of initial investment proposals in accordance with those guidelines — the emphasis is now on implementation. In this phase, the project is to provide for the effective allocation of public and private investment for urban infrastructure and, the Resident Representative added, "will surely make a major contribution towards effective sustainable development of the urban sector".

There are four major features of project INS/89/014:

- Co-ordination of investment, including some $US332 million from external assistance in the fiscal year 1989/90 alone;
- Human-resource development, with central and local group staff being trained;
- Promotion of participation by community groups, private-sector enterprises and NGOs in the planning, construction, rehabilitation and management of essential urban infrastructures;
- Full support and co-operation on the part of all the concerned agencies (BAPPENAS, the Ministry of Public Works, the Ministry of Home Affairs, and the Ministry of Finance).

Somalia: Workshop for Women Community Leaders

As part of the training component of low-cost housing project SOM/87/004, a training workshop for women community leaders was conducted in Meilsa, Somalia from 13 to 27 January 1990. The women (nine farmers, seven petty traders and three teacher trainees) had been selected from various villages in the Lower Shabelle Region — to which they would return to pass on the knowledge and skills acquired.

The methods of training used in the workshop consisted of a combination of lectures and participatory skills training. The lecture sessions concentrated on shelter issues, low-cost technologies, house types, sanitation and solid-waste disposal. The techniques of making mud blocks, cement/soil stabilized blocks, fibre-concrete roofing sheets and tiles were discussed and emphasized. Participants' consciousness regarding the link between shelter, health and the environment was thus given a practical outlet.

Training by doing - Somali women leaders.

Somali women community leaders at the workshop.

The participatory skills component emphasized the production of wall and roofing materials, both sheet and tiles (sun-dried mud blocks, cement/soil stabilized blocks). Simple instructions were given in soil selection, mixing, water content, moulding, compacting and curing. The production of roof materials concentrated on the selection of suitable materials (sand, fibre, cement, water) and on wire fixing. Operation of a top screeding machine, making tiles with it, the demoulding of the tiles, and the use of sheets and ridges were also discussed and demonstrated.

USSR, United Republic of Tanzania and UNCHS (Habitat) to strengthen Regional Centre for Training and Research in the Human Settlements Sector

If the objective of adequate shelter for all by the year 2000 is to be met, then it is imperative to improve and develop the human resources necessary to identify the problems, to assess the needs and to formulate solutions to various problems in the field of human settlements that developing countries face.

With this objective in mind, the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) and UNCHS (Habitat) on 22 August 1990, completed the signing of a project document at UNCHS (Habitat) headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. (The same document had been signed earlier in Dar es Salaam by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania.)

The project (URT/89/F01/A) aims to develop the capacity of the existing ARDHI Institute, Tanzania, as a Regional Centre for Training and Research in the field of human settlements. The Centre will provide professional training and research in related human settlements fields such as architecture, building economics, land management and valuation, land surveying, public health engineering and urban and rural planning. Countries within the Eastern and Southern African subregion will be invited to avail themselves of this opportunity to provide professional human settlements training to their nationals involved in shelter production and improvement.

Apart from strengthening the research and training capacity of ARDHI Institute, a number of laboratories will be constructed and equipped for the scientific testing of, for example, building materials, hydraulics and water quality. There will also be an environmental sciences and surveying and cartography laboratory.

This project, scheduled to run from September 1990 to December 1993, responds to one of the GSS objectives which underscores the need for human-resource development, through a broad-based training programme in order to formulate and implement national shelter strategies in the framework of the Strategy.

Study tour on urban solid-waste treatment and management, Thailand

A study tour and workshop on urban solid-waste treatment and management was held from 3 to 14 September 1990 at Bangkok, Thailand, as part of UNCHS (Habitat)/UNDP project VIE/86/023. Officials of solid-waste management institutions in Viet Nam attended lectures and workshop sessions and went on field trips organized by the project and the Asian Institute of Technology, the host institution.

UNCHS (Habitat) representative, Mr. Gehan Sinnatamby, helped co-ordinate the first week of the workshop, leading sessions on the selection of appropriate refuse collection vehicles, and the use of UNCHS (Habitat) software for this purpose. He also offered a lecture on solid-waste recycling, plus workshops on strategies for recycling refuse in Viet Nam and for the sustainable management of urban solid wastes in that country.

Trends in both developed and developing countries were noted — and related environmental issues emphasized. Using the case study of UNCHS (Habitat) efforts in recycling waste in Karachi, he helped participants to develop strategies to support and enhance waste recycling in Hanoi, and to come up with policy options for local governments to encourage such resource recovery. It was felt that there should be a financial return at each stage of the recycling chain, so that the housewife, domestic staff, used-material merchants and the small-scale, cottage-based industries which absorb the recycled materials would all receive adequate compensation. The group elicited a variety of social and financial strategies such as increasing public awareness, upgrading scavengers to used-material merchants, providing access to credit, and adopting financial incentives for clean technologies. They also identified policy options such as the encouragement of source separation, the use of risk and environmental impact assessment techniques, and charging the true cost of solid-waste disposal.

An example of waste recycling in Karachi: selling used materials.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Housing Strategies and Urban Coherence: International Workshops

■ Workshop on Housing Strategies and Urban Coherence, Algiers, Algeria

An International Workshop on Housing Strategies and Urban Coherence was held at Algiers, Algeria, from 1 to 12 December 1990. The Workshop was organized by UNCHS (Habitat) and the Postgraduate Centre for Human Settlements of the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KUL), Belgium, in co-operation with the Ministere de l'Equipement of the Government of Algeria, as part of the United Nations Programme on Housing in Development funded by the Government of Belgium.

The objective of the Workshop was to promote the exchange of experience in and analyse policy and strategy options for past and ongoing approaches to housing. Participants included researchers, trainers, practising professionals and decision-makers involved in the housing sector. Case studies were presented on a wide variety of housing strategies ranging from Algeria's social housing programme (mass housing) to sites-and-services, slum and squatter settlements upgrading and private-sector development initiatives. These case studies — which included the experience of, *inter alia*, Maghrebian countries, China, Egypt and India — served as the starting point for discussion of key issues such as housing production and management systems, roles and relationships between public, private and community sectors, and housing design in relation to the urban setting.

■ Workshop on Housing Strategies and Urban Coherence, Bandung, Indonesia

A regional workshop for Asia was held at Bandung, Indonesia, from 24 September to 4 October 1990 on Housing Strategies and Urban Coherence. The Workshop was organized by UNCHS (Habitat) and the KUL, Belgium, in co-operation with the Institute of Human Settlements, Bandung, the Ministry of Public Works and of Housing, the Parahyangan Catholic University, Bandung and the Indonesian Institute of Architects. Thirty-three participants from 13 countries attended the Workshop, which was targeted at trainers, researchers, planners, architects and officials responsible for formulating and implementing housing programmes and policies.

The Workshop focused on three main topics: (a) the role and importance of systematic analysis and evaluation of urban housing interventions, (b) urban coherence (in terms of the mix of the economic and social strata, infrastructure and services and spatial integration) and, (c) the role of human settlements professionals. It included presentations and discussions of case studies from, *inter alia*, Egypt, India, Indonesia and Pakistan on public, private and community-based initiatives and programmes. The discussion of Indonesian cases was complemented by visits to selected sites in Bandung and meetings with local officials and housing professionals. A key component of the Workshop was the formulation and preliminary design of alternative proposals for two large housing projects in Indonesia: a major urban renewal project for the inner city of Bandung and the redevelopment of the former airport area in Jakarta.

■ Feedback to the United Nations Housing in Development Programme

The results of the Workshop in Algiers and in Bandung will be incorporated in the content and approach of the regular United Nations Programme on Housing in Development funded by the Government of Belgium since 1979.

The next activity of this Programme will be a workshop in Nairobi for English-speaking countries of the East and Southern African subregion. It is scheduled to be held in co-operation with the Housing and Building Research Institute of the University of Nairobi in April 1991. The objective of the workshop as per the Programme as a whole is to promote the exchange of experience and explore innovative options and approaches to housing policies, programmes and projects. Participants in the Programme include middle- and senior-level housing officials, researchers and trainers and practising professionals from public, private and community institutions and sectors. A similar workshop will be organized for the Asian region in 1992.

Training of Trainers Workshop for Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia

In 1990, UNCHS (Habitat), in collaboration with the Economic Development Institute of the World Bank (EDI) and the Regional Office for Housing and Urban Development for the Near East and North Africa of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), started a three-year Training of Trainers (TOT) programme designed to strengthen the urban finance and management training capabilities of Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia.

The first TOT workshop took place at Tangiers, Morocco, in February-March 1990 (see the April 1990 UNCHS HABITAT NEWS). A second TOT workshop on the systematic assessment of training needs will be held in Algeria in February 1991 using methodology based on the UNCHS *Manual for Training Needs Assessment in Human Settlements Organizations* (HS/114/87/E).

The workshop will include the assessment of training needs and priorities in a municipal authority. Trainers will be trained in the use of various tools and techniques and immediately apply them to a municipal authority. They will thus benefit from using their newly acquired skills and know-how in an operational situation rather than simulating the application of such skills in a classroom.

The Training Needs Assessment (TNA) methodology uses a six-step process which has been designed specifically by the UNCHS (Habitat) Training Unit for human settlements organizations in developing countries (see diagram 1) and has the advantage of distinguishing between performance problems and discrepancies which can be addressed by training and

those which require other types of remedies (see table 1).

The project, which is part of the Urban Management Programme (see article under Technical Co-operation) and funded by, *inter alia*, the Regional Bureau for Arab States and European Programmes of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will also provide *ad hoc* on-the-job technical assistance to trainers trained in the use of TNA in their respective countries.

The third TOT activity foreseen for Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia will use the feedback obtained from TNA to design, develop and field-test training modules to be used by training institutions in responding to training needs and priorities.

Collaborative Organizational Management Assessment (COMA)

Further to the application of UNCHS (Habitat)'s Training Needs Assessment Methodology in several countries, the UNCHS (Habitat) Training Unit sought to develop a cost-effective management audit tool for human settlements organizations. This tool is designed specifically to diagnose non-training-related problems which are facing municipal authorities and agencies which are undergoing rapid change, for example in the ongoing decentralization process in many countries.

A study carried out by the Training Unit in 1989 revealed that many technical co-operation projects fail to address the issues of institutional or organizational effectiveness and efficiency owing to a lack of readily available and affordable diagnostic tools. The study further showed that many of the existing methodologies currently available on the market are proprietary with the firm conducting the assessment and are so consultant-intensive as to inhibit their systematic use in developing countries (see diagram 2).

In 1990, UNCHS (Habitat), with assistance from the UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States and European Programmes and USAID's Office of Housing, began the development of a prototype of an organizational management assessment methodology. The preliminary design was undertaken in Jordan, where UNCHS (Habitat) staff and consultants worked closely together with one municipal authority and a housing agency to identify the types and nature of problems which need to be addressed, test ideas and processes and determine the cost of applying such a methodology. This field exercise resulted in a six-step collaborative process (see diagram 3) which will be field-tested and disseminated to relevant project managers, training and management institutes in the course of 1991-1992 and form part of the management training and capacity-building services offered by UNCHS (Habitat).

SACDEL seminar on selecting and disseminating projects

An International Seminar on Processes for the Selection and Dissemination of Projects (Project Bank) took place at Santa Marta, Colombia, from 6 to 9 November 1990. Some 40 participants (among them directors of national agencies, specialists in technical co-operation, mayors and representatives of international agencies) met in

Diagram of the Training Needs Assessment Process

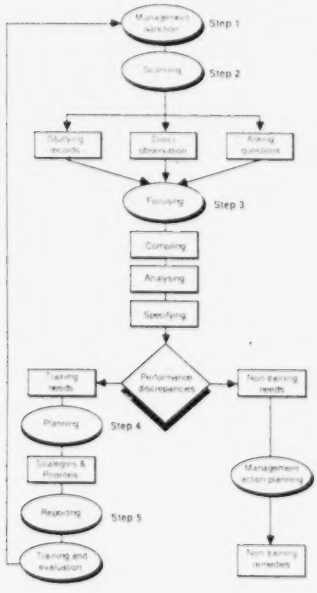


Diagram 1

Table 1

Comparison of Methods for Assessing Training Needs

Conventional	Systematic
Is carried out for the agency by training institutions using standardized methods.	Is carried out by the agency to identify its own solutions for gaps in performance.
Focuses on a single source of data, the person who responds to a survey request.	Focuses on multiple data sources to verify training solutions for performance problems.
Targets levels of the agency where there are needs that correspond to the capabilities of the training institution.	Targets various levels of the agency depending on where problems or changing situations are found.
Centres on subject matter for training and the agency's reaction to a list of topics.	Centres on concrete problems and the consequences of planned changes for performance in the organization.
Depends on the skill of outside training institutions to carry out the assessment.	Depends on management commitment and personnel who are able to carry out needs assessment on a regular basis.
Does not distinguish between training related needs and needs for organizational improvement.	Distinguishes between training needs and non-training needs and provides linkages between the two types of needs.

Table 1

a workshop format to exchange their experiences on methods used in various countries to prepare, select, and finance municipal projects. Insights into these processes and their applicability elsewhere was the goal, rather than formulating recommendations and conclusions.

In the first two days of the course, case studies from Colombia, Chile and Ecuador were analysed. During the rest of the time aspects of the proposed project bank methodology were discussed. Such project banks in some Latin American countries have implemented a system which helps municipalities to prepare projects and evaluate them technically before their presentation to financial sources. In this way small and medium-sized municipalities can make best use of their limited financial resources and avoid long waiting periods before the funding and consequent implementation of projects.

The overall objective of the seminar, organized by the SACDEL (Regional System of Training for Local Development and the Improvement of Municipal Administration in Latin America) project, CELCADEL (the Latin American chapter of the International Union of Local Authorities or IULA), and the Organization of American States, is to contribute to the processes of decentralization in the region and to strengthen municipalities as agents of economic and social development.

The project is in turn an initiative of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, IULA, the Economic Development Institute of the World Bank, and UNCHS (Habitat).

Workshop on spatial organization of expanding cities

The Institute on Higher Education in Architecture of the French Community in Belgium, based in La Cambre, Brussels, Belgium, will be the venue of the seventh international workshop on professional training: urban development, regional planning and construction (DAC), to take place from 13 February to 26 April 1991. A co-operative effort of the Belgian Co-operation and Development Administration (AGCD) and the Institute, it enjoys UNCHS (Habitat) support. This year's theme is the spatial organization of expanding cities: infrastructure and urban networks. Four modules will be developed: macro-planning, urban physical planning, architecture, infrastructure programming and designing. A week-long study tour is also being organized.

These DAC workshops offer practitioners in urban and regional planning in developing countries the chance to update, complement and improve their general and practical knowledge through intensive sessions which are structured around a specific theme and relate directly to problems encountered in daily work.

Policies for public transport in large cities of developing countries

Improvements in urban public transport are needed to improve living conditions and secure sustainable development in the large cities of developing countries.

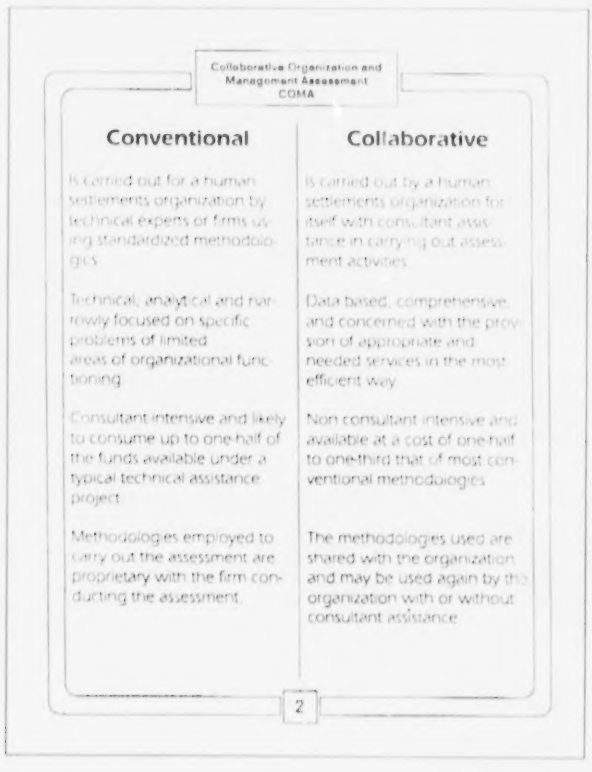

Collaborative Organization and Management Assessment COMA
Conventional
Collaborative
Is carried out for a human settlements organization by technical experts or firms using standardized methodologies
Is carried out by a human settlements organization for itself with consultant assistance in carrying out assessment activities
Technical, analytical and narrowly focused on specific problems of limited areas of organizational functioning
Data based, comprehensive and concerned with the provision of appropriate and needed services in the most efficient way
Consultant intensive and likely to consume up to one-half of the funds available under a typical technical assistance project
Non consultant intensive and available at a cost of one-half to one-third that of most conventional methodologies
Methodologies employed to carry out the assessment are proprietary with the firm conducting the assessment
The methodologies used are shared with the organization and may be used again by this organization with or without consultant assistance
2

Diagram 2

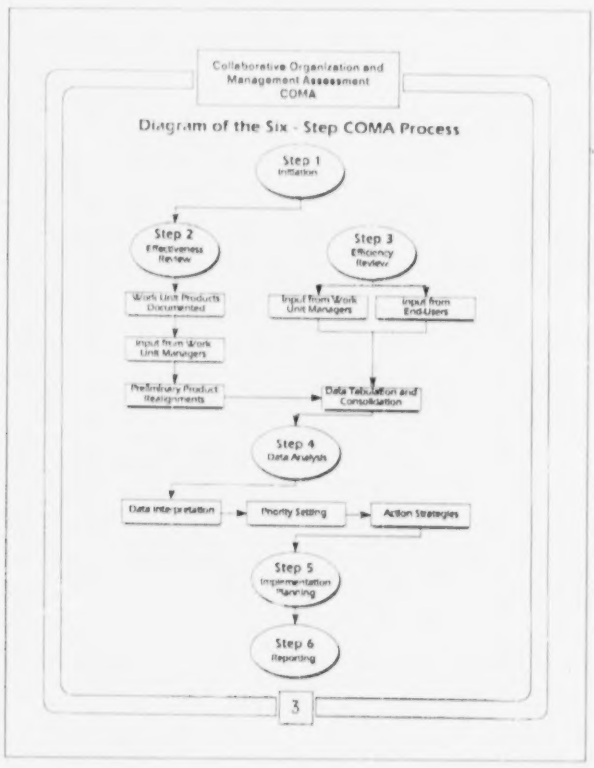


Diagram 3

An *Ad hoc* Expert Group Meeting on policy options leading to such improvements was held at UNCHS (Habitat) headquarters in Nairobi from 16 to 20 July 1990. It was attended by public-transport managers and experts from selected research institutions and consulting firms dealing with urban public transport in developed and developing countries. The World Bank, the International Union of Public Transport and the CODATU Association: Conferences on the Development and the Planning of Urban Transport in Developing Countries were also represented in the meeting.

In his opening speech, Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat), pointed out that while cities were making major contributions to the national economy of developing countries, their physical environment was rapidly deteriorating owing to the lack of appropriate and well-maintained infrastructure. He said that the widening gap between transport-system capacities and transport needs called into question transport policies which were excessively concerned with individual transport and neglected public transport options in responding effectively, at affordable cost, in an energy-efficient and environmentally-sustainable manner, to present and future urban transport needs. Dr. Ramachandran encouraged participants to discuss options for sound long-range strategies in public transport, well integrated in the overall processes of urban development, supportive of the attainment of sustainability objectives, compatible with existing development constraints and open to new possibilities which technology and economic advances might create.

The early identification of participants allowed for a review of the main issues long before the meeting was actually convened in Nairobi. Participants were provided with a resource paper, "Choices in Urban Public Transportation for Cities of Over One Million Population in the Developing World", prepared at UNCHS (Habitat) by R. Gakenheimer, Professor of Urban Planning and Civil Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. They were then asked to respond with brief written statements to a list of key questions considered to be essential to the discussion. Issues emerging from these statements were highlighted in a discussion paper presented at the meeting itself.

The meeting's deliberation focused on the following six themes:

(a) Strategies for public transport in large cities in developing countries;

(b) The role of national and local governments in promoting transport supportive of sustainable urban development;

(c) The organizational framework of public transport;

(d) Choice of public-transport modes;

(e) Financing the development and operation of public transport; and

(f) Integrated management of urban transport and land use.

■ Viewpoints

The discussion reaffirmed both the importance of public transport in the attainment of social equity (in meeting basic needs of the population) and its potential as a catalyst to economic development. It was stressed that public transport should contribute to an efficient use of natural resources, especially land and energy, and to the protection of the environment. Effectiveness and efficiency of operation in meeting transportation demand and the affordability of services were essential criteria in public-transport development strategies, which should not draw on the public funds needed for the achievement of other social and economic goals.

The participants felt that public transport should be provided by public and private operators with minimal political interference and as little economic distortion as possible. The complex interactions which characterize public transport, however, do require government involvement. National and local policies on public transport and local public-transport development plans are indispensable. These should be well co-ordinated with other sectoral policies affecting development and the operation of public transport: *inter alia*, fiscal, industrial, energy, population, housing and land-development policies. Particular government responsibility lies in ensuring the safety and controlling the environmental impact of public transport.

Links between improvement in public transport and the establishment of an appropriate institutional framework for guiding public-transport development and operation were emphasized. This could be facilitated by a high level of decentralization of authority and responsibilities in implementing national urban-transport strategies. However, in metropolitan areas, a metropolitan agency/committee/authority should be formed to ensure the consistency of actions at local, national, and regional levels.

The meeting acknowledged that various technologies and operation systems, including informal and traditional transport, might be needed to respond effectively and efficiently to differentiated travel demand. Decisions on transport modes should reflect local conditions and be based on the following criteria:

(a) The financial affordability and economic viability of the system's installation and operation;

(b) Institutional feasibility with regard to operations and maintenance;

(c) Expected impact of the system on the transportation network, urban physical development pattern and environment; and

(d) Distribution of effects produced by development and the operation of the system over the community.

Recognizing the need to recover public-transport costs from users (and, where practical, from the car users, business and property owners who benefit from public transport), the participants expressed a range of opinions with regard to government subsidies to capital-intensive but energy-efficient and environment-compatible high-capacity transport systems. However, they pointed out that, wherever operating subsidies would be provided, they should be targeted to particular population groups and given directly to those in need.

Although integration of land use, transport and other infrastructure systems development plans proved to be difficult to implement, the participants in the meeting considered such integration important for enabling urban development and reducing its costs. They emphasized the need to increase the capability of urban management in promoting intersectoral co-ordination, essential for sustainable urban development.

The report of the meeting will contribute to the preparation of a UNCHS (Habitat) publication on policies for public-transport modes in the cities of developing countries.

EGM on Global Energy Sustainability

An *ad hoc* expert group meeting (EGM), consisting of 16 participants, was held at Espoo, Finland, from 22 to 24 August 1990 in order to discuss the effects of the energy conservation policies of Economic Commission of Europe (ECE) countries on the sustainability of the global energy supply. This meeting was sponsored by the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Trade and Industry of the Government of Finland. UNCHS (Habitat) and ECE were recognized for collaborating in the preparation of the meeting. Emphasis was placed on the importance of petroleum in global energy supplies and of conserving energy.

The experts agreed that ECE conservation policies have direct links with energy availability for developing countries. These policies can possibly increase the supply of and reduce the demand for energy resources in developing countries.

The meeting concluded that improvements in energy efficiency would be likely if countries introduced policies which stressed the complementarity of energy conservation and environmental standards. Dissemination of information on these issues needs to be increased, as both industrialized and developing countries insist that a lack of knowledge among energy consumers is putting constraints on efficiency gains. In order to advance environmental standards, improvements also need to be made in the areas of building regulations and land-use planning, particularly in urban areas.

In discussing the sustainability of energy resources, the experts agreed that the risk of **climate change** is the most important consideration in assessing long-term energy policies. In attempting to solve this problem, energy conservation is important, but insufficient by itself, as it only makes scarce energy resources available for a longer period of time. Because of rapid population growth in developing countries, the creation of renewable and environmentally acceptable energy sources (such as solar, fusion and hydrogen) is also necessary. The meeting considered whether future energy needs of a growing population could be met; because the substitution of present resources with new energy technologies is time-consuming and costly, it concluded that energy paths reflecting present industrial use patterns could not support the projected demographic trends.

The Bergen Ministerial Declaration agreed to initiate an ECE-wide campaign, **Energy Efficiency 2000**, promoting environmentally-sound and energy-efficient processes to close the energy-efficiency gap between actual practice and improved technologies. Undoubtedly, developing countries would benefit from these initiatives in the long term, thus having an impact on energy sustainability in human settlements.

The group of experts proposed the gathering of available information which indicates under which conditions and by which means human settlements, especially large urban systems, could be operated with 20 per cent to 10 per cent of their present energy (and material) throughput, and how fast such a target could be achieved. The experts also agreed to investigate the creation of an international forum for communication between governments, international organizations and industries, concentrating on the status of **human settlements**.

The meeting concluded that if large human settlements can obtain positive socio-economic change that does not threaten the ecological and social systems of the community, then the condition of these settlements is sustainable. One of the pressure points in the stability of the settlements of developing countries, however, is energy. Therefore, it is essential for industrialized countries to assist developing countries in the generation of new energy technologies. The experts noted that energy-conservation policies in ECE countries were of great significance in creating an excess within the energy supply system. Also, because of the rapid decrease of fossil-fuel supplies, continued efforts should be made to substitute these sources with renewable ones and to enhance the use of the latter, especially in the human settlements sector.

Singapore Workshop on Building Maintenance Strategy

On 6 and 7 September 1990, senior employees of government departments and statutory bodies responsible for building construction and maintenance, representatives of financial institutions, contractors, architects, engineers and other building-maintenance professionals in Singapore met at a Workshop on Building Maintenance Strategy. The aim was threefold: to document the Singapore experience in building maintenance in terms of policies, strategies, and institutional arrangements; to examine current problems and constraints and the ways these are being addressed within the existing framework; and to provide strategies to improve current building maintenance and cost recovery. Assisting them in the task were the joint organizers, the School of Building and Estate Management of the Faculty of Architecture and Building, National University of Singapore, and UNCHS (Habitat).

Speaking at the Workshop, Mr. Matthias Yao, Political Secretary to the First Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore, stated that over 70 per cent of the population owned their own homes. The Government's refurbishment programme would, he added, help to raise the quality of life of Singaporeans.

Maintenance of buildings 'will enter a new phase in Singapore'

MAINTENANCE of buildings will enter a new phase here in the next 10 to 20 years, said Mr Matthias Yao, Political Secretary to the First Deputy Prime Minister.

Speaking at a workshop yesterday, Mr Yao said that with more than 70 per cent of Singaporeans today owning the homes they live in, "for many, their homes are their single most valuable asset".

"To us in Singapore, our real estate and infrastructure represent to a large extent the people's wealth.

"The next step is to enhance this wealth."

The public housing programme, while producing "safe and functional' apartments, has not quite kept pace with commercial developments in terms of quality and aesthetics.

As such, the Government's refurbishment programme, which will take a number of years to complete, will help raise the quality of living.

Addressing about 60 participants from both the public and private sectors at the workshop, he said: "When the refurbishment is done, the work of the maintenance profession in Singapore will take on a new dimension."

Their task will go beyond preserving public health, rectifying defects and ensuring public safety. They will have to think in terms of "offering optimum conditions for gracious living and community interaction", he added.

The workshop was jointly organised by the Building and Estate Management Faculty of the National University of Singapore and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat).

"When the refurbishment is done, the work of the maintenance profession in Singapore will take on a new dimension." Thus it would go beyond meeting basic needs such as health and safety and offer optimum living conditions and the opportunity for community interaction.

In his opening statement, Mario Piche, Chief of the Building and Infrastructure Technology Section of the Research and Development Division of UNCHS (Habitat), traced trends in the construction industry since the 1950s — ending with Commission on Human Settlements resolution 12/15 which had "urged Governments to initiate the development of public, private, and community-based partnerships in maintenance programmes". The current Workshop, which fitted into that description, had chosen Singapore as its venue after taking into account its impressive record of building maintenance. Yet new challenges were being posed; hence a fresh appraisal of the situation was timely.

To meet their objectives, the participants had before them a lead paper highlighting the key issues. It was used to guide discussions, and then to produce a set of recommendations in critical areas of concern and action. The lead paper detailed the Singapore situation, and went on to offer strategies for further improvement — among them improving the image of the maintenance sector, training skilled operatives and supervisors, cost reduction in maintenance work, tax incentives to encourage private owners to maintain their properties, and means of gathering and handling comprehensive information on maintenance.

Participants then joined various discussion sections related to organization and management, funding and cost control, policy issues, and technical issues. Under the theme of **organizational and management** issues, three areas of potential training were identified: skilled labour, supervisory personnel and managerial staff. The significance and benefits of management information systems was recognized — and various practical problems were noted. Recommendations on **funding and cost recovery** included a re-evaluation of the level of services provided, and the linking of financial and physical standards, so that one is not achieved at the expense of the other. Among the points made under **policy issues** was the need to emphasize privatization to ensure efficiency and accountability. The contribution of maintenance towards the conservation of the built environment was noted; "Environmental policy and planning initiatives should, therefore, address maintenance requirements as an integral part of the national conservation strategy." Under **technical issues**, the Workshop recommended adoption of a non-traditional contract practice system that brings together the designer, constructor and property manager at the time of design.

Energy theme paper EGM

From 18 to 21 September 1990, an EGM on energy was held at UNCHS (Habitat) headquarters. Ten eminent energy specialists from developed and developing countries examined key issues pertaining to the theme, among them, strategies for optimizing the use of energy by households, energy and the environment, energy-use patterns in the transport sector, and the potential role of new and renewable sources of energy for human settlements development.

The meeting was opened by Dr. A. Ramachandran, Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat). In his opening address, the Executive Director stated that determined efforts are required to reduce energy intensity in the industrialized countries so as to contribute to the maintenance of a balance between global energy demand and supply at tolerable price levels. A sustainable development requires that attention is paid to the promotion of energy-efficient construction and building-materials production technologies as well as energy-efficient transport modes. He stressed that no development could be seen as sustainable, unless it improves the lives of ordinary people by helping them meet some of their immediate and basic needs, such as adequate shelter, clean air and water, energy for households, transport means and safe waste disposal. In this respect, only policies aimed at meeting these goals can be assured of the broad political support required for their ultimate success.

The Executive Director further requested the meeting to consider the following issues and come up with appropriate conclusions and recommendations:

- Urban energy systems and rural energy requirements, particularly those meeting needs of poor households;
- production of building materials using recycling concepts and energy generation from municipal wastes;
- Use of new and renewable sources of energy and life-cycle costing in transport;
- Promotion of energy-efficient and clean technologies, particularly in the building materials and construction industries, and actions needed to be taken by industrialized and developing countries in the context of sustainable development.

After discussions, the Expert Group offered recommendations in three broad areas:

- **Energy use by households:** offer financial incentives to promote use and local manufacture of renewable energy technologies;
- **Energy efficiency and improvement of living standards:** introduce and enforce national guidelines for minimum acceptable energy efficiency, offer training and education programmes, improve and standardize survey methodologies; promote widespread applications of renewable energy technologies and local manufacturing to ensure development of local skills and know-how;
- **Building materials and construction:** promote low-energy technologies by building designers, in the production of building materials and in the construction process.

The Expert Group concluded the meeting by proposing several points for discussion by the thirteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements. These relate to use of fossil fuels, new and renewable sources of energy, appropriate land-use patterns which could lead to efficient use of transport systems, ways of reducing energy consumption in the transport sector, standards for energy conservation in the building-construction sector and the environmental impact of use of energy in the household, building-materials and construction sectors.

The output from the meeting will form the basis of the theme paper, "Use of energy by households, in construction and in production of building materials with emphasis on energy sources which are new and renewable and that minimize pollution problems", to be presented and discussed during the

thirteenth session of the Commission meeting in 1991.

Reforming and modernizing land-tenure systems through land-title registration

A UNCHS (Habitat) Workshop on Land Registration and Land Information Systems for Eastern and Southern African Countries was held from 15 to 18 October 1990 at its headquarters at Nairobi, Kenya. The participants included professionals from Kenya, Malawi, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe and from Shelter-Afrique. They reviewed the present land-registration systems, identified their strengths and weaknesses/bottlenecks and suggested ways of improving and strengthening the process.

Opening the workshop on behalf of the UNCHS (Habitat) Executive Director, the Director for the Office of Programme Co-ordination, Mr. Darshan Johal, stated that in order for developing countries to deal with current development demands, land-tenure systems would have to be reformed and modernized. Since land is an extremely important factor in human settlements, putting constraints on its supply produces immediate negative effects on overall socio-economic development. Mr. Johal noted that the prevailing land-tenure systems in developing countries are hindrances to the advancement of human settlements development and management, especially those in urban areas. According to the World Bank, 90 per cent of land parcels in developing countries have no documentary evidence of title or of confirmed tenure. 1/ This lack of information delays access to formal credit and frustrates the generation of resources from property rating. In addition, this problem greatly impedes transactions in land from those who own it to those who need it for human settlements development.

Mr. Johal emphasized the need for affordable land-registration programmes and the regularization of land tenure to stimulate the land market. Land-title registration, he noted, is essential to land-tenure modernization, as it would ensure legal security and make transactions with financial institutions possible. In addition, land dealings would become simplified, expedited and affordable. He noted, however, that in order to facilitate the land-registration process, obstacles (such as detailed requirements for land surveys, the slow production rate of cadastral surveys, and the title-issuing process) must be removed. He invited participants, as professionals and practitioners who confront these problems on a daily basis, to come up with practical suggestions on how to simplify, improve and facilitate the process of land-title registration in particular, and modernization of land tenure systems in general.

The participants' collective suggestions on improving land-registration and land information systems include the following:

(a) Survey regulations should be reviewed and made more flexible, and less costly and time-consuming;

(b) Imprecise survey plans should be accepted in the short term with the intent of improving upon them in the long term;

(c) To ease constraints created by surveys, private-sector agencies should be empowered to undertake survey and land-registration work;

(d) There is a need for increased training and capacity-building at technical, professional and managerial levels;

(e)More emphasis needs to be placed on mid-level technical skills in order to support the professionals;

(f) Governments should be persuaded to authorize their land departments to retain a portion of the revenue they generate in order to maintain an adequate and steady supply of materials and equipment required for land-title registration;

(g) The computerization of land-information systems should be a gradual and carefully planned process, with careful thought given to the data format, programmes adopted, and manageability and maintenance of equipment;

(h) There needs to be greater co-ordination among government departments and agencies in the production, management, and sharing of land information; this could be achieved by designating one department as the focal point for land records;

(i) There is a need to localize land registration offices to expedite and ensure the accuracy of land records and transactions;

(j) Funding of land-information systems should be improved through land taxation and the selling of appropriate information to developers;

(k) The general population should be made more aware of the benefits of land-title registration;

(l) A basic map coverage of the entire country needs to be achieved as a start, and mapping at scales appropriate for cadastral work should be undertaken for high-potential areas — especially urban areas.

These suggestions will be incorporated into the UNCHS (Habitat) publication, *Guidelines on the Improvement of Land-Registration Systems in Developing Countries*, which is expected to be published and disseminated to countries to assist and facilitate the advancement of the process.

1/ Technical Paper #108, September 1989, *Land Information and Remote Sensing for Renewable Resource Management in sub-Saharan Africa: A Demand-driven Approach*, by Francis Falloux, p. 9.

Video - Curtain raiser for GSS Seminars

It is well-known in the development field that most of those attending seminars, symposia and workshops are not first-time participants. On the contrary, many senior bureaucrats, agency officials, senior professionals and non-governmental organization representatives are seasoned conference attenders.

The UNCHS (Habitat) series of subregional seminars on the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 (GSS) is a typical example of this syndrome. The GSS is an earnest and urgent attempt of UNCHS (Habitat) to convince government policy-makers and shelter-related agency officials, the private sector and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that strategic and concerted action on shelter cannot be postponed and that "the persistence and growth of poor shelter conditions, particularly in the rapidly expanding areas of the developing countries, are an increasing cause of concern to governments wishing to maintain socio-political stability and a stumbling block to human and economic development".

The problem for the seminar organizers is that it is very difficult to play up the emotional aspects of this very human problem; it is virtually impossible to "sell" the participants some new angles on the slum story. Many of them will have personally lived through the last vogue in urban planning or low-income housing design and are now coping with the results. In order to overcome this formidable obstacle, the Centre has produced a video to open the seminars. It is quite full of surprises.

■ Think Twice: To Provide or to Enable"

The video is divided into five distinct but logically related sequences. Each has a different mood and character.

It opens with a sentimental and pathetic set of images on slums and homelessness, images which are immediately interrupted by the exasperated voice of a third-world housing bureaucrat who admits that there is a huge problem but argues that governments have been trying to provide some solutions.

The next sequence, entitled "Government - The Great Provider", comprises a quick and amusing summary of earlier attempts to provide solutions to the problem of urban shelter. Each solution, rural development, public high-rise housing schemes and sites-and-services projects, is followed by an image of failure. This sequence is a parody of the silent screen film era with cartoons and a ragtime piano soundtrack.

Sequence three argues that in spite of all these failures there is no need to despair. There are alternative approaches founded on the very strengths of the squatter settlements themselves. It asks the audience to look objectively at how much the squatters have achieved despite the fact that they receive no government subsidies or support. It suggests that much more could be achieved if these communities were encouraged and enabled rather than condemned and threatened with demolition.

Sequence four, entitled "Government - The Great Enabler", presents five very brief case studies of countries worldwide that have increased and improved their housing stock through enabling strategies. Each case study presents a specific problem, and then describes the enabling strategy adopted and its positive results.

The video, which runs a total of 21 minutes, concludes with an upbeat brief introduction to the basic action dimensions of the GSS.The video is now available in English, French and Spanish, in VHS or U-matic copies, and can be obtained from the Information, Audio-Visual and Documentation Division of UNCHS (Habitat) in Nairobi, Kenya.

Marketing fibre-concrete roofing (FCR) tiles

One of the pervading problems of appropriate technology development for virtually all sectors is that farmers in rural areas or small entrepreneurs in urban areas are rarely assisted in the marketing of their products.

The case of small-scale building materials production based on indigenous materials and locally-produced technologies or machinery in Kenya illustrates the problem. Various agencies, be they governmental or non-governmental, are very forthcoming with expertise and training assistance to introduce intermediate technologies, but they are often less effective in marketing the goods and services which result from the technologies.

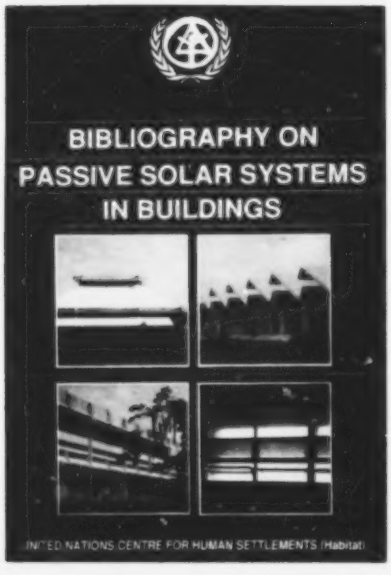
In order to overcome this problem, UNCHS (Habitat) has recently produced a short (five-minute) video entitled "Matching Market Demands". The video focuses on the quality and availability of FCR tiles and the satisfaction of customers who have used them. The video is aimed at the broadcast market and will be made available to national television networks in developing countries to advertise both the production technologies and the FCR tiles themselves. It is hoped that this will stimulate demand in the market-place in Kenya (where the video was made) and in other countries in the developing world where these tiles can be produced from indigenous materials.

NEW FROM HABITAT

■ **Bibliography on Passive Solar Systems in Buildings,** vi plus 68 pp., HS/173/89E, ISBN 92-1-131094-8

Nearly half of the world's commercial energy is consumed in buildings in order to provide indoor comfort. However, the natural environment can be used to reduce energy requirements in buildings by making use of passive energy systems which can contribute to the same purpose. This bibliography has been prepared to provide professionals such as designers, architects and engineers concerned with the reconstruction and retrofitting of buildings, especially in developing countries, with information on passive solar systems and allied subjects from the available literature in order to encourage them to make maximum use of energy-conserving devices and systems.

The bibliography represents a summary of a database of some 360 selected references on passive solar systems in buildings. Part I is a general reading list of documents which provide an overview of passive solar design (divided into books, conference proceedings, journals, reports and papers), while Part II is a list of references on specific aspects of passive solar systems (including passive solar technology, passive heating, passive cooling, building materials and construction techniques, solar radiation and climate) with subdivisions into the type of document. Part III is a more detailed annotated reference on 30 selected references of particular importance, Part IV gives a cross-reference to the descriptors of publications in Part II, while an annex lists specialist publishers in the field whose books are included in Part II.



■ **Bibliography on Soil Construction,** x plus 173 pp., HS/169/90E, ISBN 92-1-131089-8

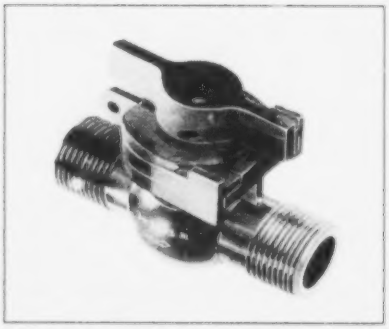
Experience over the years has shown that, of all the potentially viable local building materials, earth is probably the most readily applicable as it is truly low-cost yet functionally efficient. Its universal application and technical superiority have led to the growing importance of the subject, as evident in this bibliography, which lists a multitude of titles. It is a contribution of UNCHS (Habitat) to improving information dissemination on soil-construction technology and providing professionals, decision-makers, researchers and practitioners of soil construction with a sound basis for venturing into projects using one of the most promising cost-effective materials.

The bibliography is presented in two parts. The first is based on titles of documents, arranged in alphabetical order for the convenience of professionals and academicians, while the second is arranged in a manner familiar to information scientists or librarians — by classification of authors in alphabetical order. Both parts of the bibliography are presented in four main chapters: chapter I provides a general reading list on soil-construction technology which is subdivided into books, seminars, papers, periodicals, reports and theses, and articles; chapter II is arranged by key subject areas of earth-construction technology: properties of soil and soil stabilization, techniques and equipment for production, design and construction techniques, standards and specifications, and strategies for project implementation. Chapter III provides an annotated bibliography for a few of the titles covered in chapter I and II, with the selection limited to items which constitute the core of information on soil construction classified into books, seminars, periodicals, and reports. Chapter IV provides an index, either by title or by author. In chapters I, II and IV, the information is subdivided by the original languages in which each specific document is available, i.e., English, French, Portuguese and Spanish.

■ **The Conservation of Drinking-Water Supplies: Techniques for Low-income Settlements,** iv plus 48 pp., tables, figures, notes and references, HS/175/89E, ISBN 92-1-131095-4

This report addresses some of the issues of operation and maintenance of infrastructure facilities; it is designed to draw attention to the long-neglected area of water conservation and to increase awareness of the role of conservation among decision-makers, engineers and planners.

It reviews methods of conserving drinking-water supplies in developing countries, especially in low-income settlements in four areas: structural, operational, financial, and socio-political. Structural methods include flow-control devices which can be used in various systems — multiple-tap in-house supplies, courtyard supplies, or hand-carried supplies — and applied to toilets, showerheads, taps of various kinds and standpipes. Metering requires careful cost-benefit analysis, while recycling is seen as inappropriate. Operational methods of conservation include leakage detection and repair, and the reduction of excessive line pressure, while financial methods include the structuring of water tariffs to subsidize low-volume, low-income users, with progressive charges for increased consumption. Socio-political steps include legislation (not only



In-line flow limiters control the water flow to an individual house or a group of houses.

water-use restriction, but building and plumbing codes) and public education — a key component. Case studies from the United States of America and from Mexico City are followed by recommendations as to national actions and international support measures.

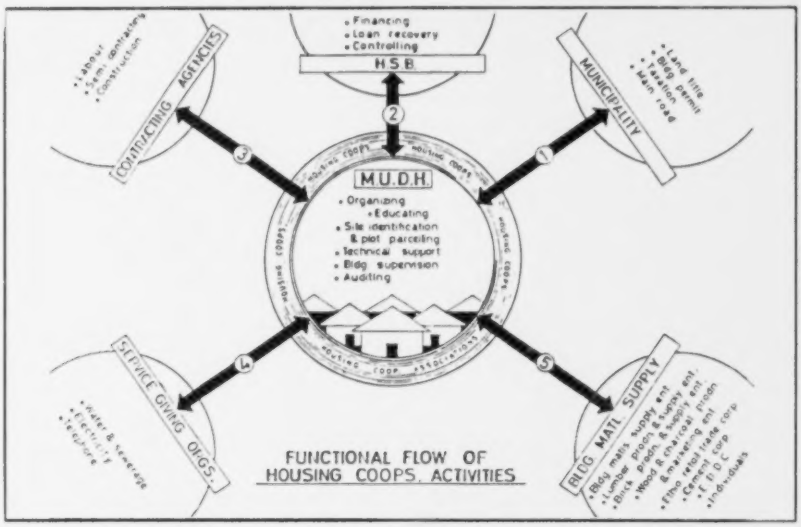
■ **Co-operative Housing: Experiences of Mutual Self-Help**, viii plus 164 pp., footnotes, references, bibliography, HS/179/89E, ISBN 92-1-131101-2

This volume is intended for organizers of potential co-operatives as well as for those who are able to provide support to co-operatives in legal, financial, technical or other ways. It is also meant for governments which are considering policies and strategies which will meet housing needs in times of severe financial constraint and for those in government who implement such policies and strategies.

The publication focuses on "co-operative groups" and the role that they play in the shelter sector. It presents four experiences of co-operative groups: two in Africa and one each in Asia and Latin America. The case studies demonstrate the advantages and problems of different approaches to co-operative housing. Together, the four experiences encompass a wide range of self-help solutions to housing and describe a number of institutional forms, management approaches and financial arrangements.

While each country has its own particular context which influences the nature of co-operative housing, there are features of co-operative housing organizations that are common to many countries. In the overview section the experiences from the four case studies are drawn together to identify key issues which influence the development of co-operative housing. Tenure, organization and development of the co-operative, organization and management of self-help construction, land acquisition, finance and institutional support are all surveyed.

The study concludes that housing co-operatives and similar organizations are able to mobilize human and financial resources within communities to enable low-income groups in particular to improve their housing through a combination of methods including new construction and improvement of existing housing. However, considerable assistance is required to enable them to fulfil their potential, including a national framework of institutional support, the emergence of support organizations, the development of a financial system which recognizes the particular needs of co-operatives, and the development of competent management within co-operatives through programmes of human resource development. The four case studies provide examples of successes and constraints in many of these aspects.



■ **Co-operation in the African Region on Technologies and Standards for Local Building Materials**, ii plus 35 pp., tables, HS/181/89E, ISBN 92-1-131104-7

UNCHS (Habitat) has given high priority to the building-materials industry and its role in national development, for this sector of the economy offers opportunities for lessening import-dependency or, even, for attaining self-sufficiency by promoting indigenous production capacity. The latter is a real prospect if mechanisms are established for technology collaboration at the regional level, at the subregional level or between neighbouring countries.

This publication highlights the achievements of joint UNCHS (Habitat)/ Commonwealth Science Council endeavours over the past few years in the development of standards and specifications for local building materials in a number of English-speaking African countries. A report on the Workshop on Co-operation in the African Region on Technologies and Standards for Local Building Materials, held at Nairobi in June 1989 is featured. Since that workshop was organized by the same two organizations to review the innovations discussed in three previous workshops in Ghana (July 1988), Malawi (September 1988) and Kenya (May 1989), there are substantial annexes on these three as well. The publication concludes with an appendix, "Kenya Specification for Stabilized Soil Blocks".

■ **Developing a Strategy for Incorporating Activities for the Generation of Income and Employment within Human Settlements Programmes: Report of an Expert Group Meeting**, ii plus 42 pp., HS/203/90E, ISBN 92-131121-7

The purpose of this Expert Group Meeting, held at Nairobi from 13 to 17 November 1989, was to develop a strategy for incorporating income-generating activities in housing projects or human settlements programmes — with emphasis on the indigenous construction sector and building-materials production appropriate for low-income housing. Other income-generating activities were also considered, along with employment in the provision and maintenance of urban basic services.

The Expert Group attempted to develop a methodology to be used in developing countries, local and regional strategies. The report is intended to provide a framework for

policy-makers, professionals and practitioners to analyse specific employment and human settlements situations, and to develop strategies with the overall objective of promoting employment creation and income-generation through human settlements programmes.

Proposed actions include the development of such strategies, and areas for research, case studies and documentation — such as the incremental "step-up" programme in Madhya Pradesh, India and the development of training modules in such areas as women, employment and human settlements. Proposed strategic responses concerned construction and building materials (with emphasis on local building materials and small-scale contractors), urban basic services (including the encouragement of labour-intensive methods, private and community-sector responsibilities, and the recycling of refuse), and local employment in low-income settlements (noting, e.g., the need for self-sustaining neighbourhoods and mixed development, the design of housing units to allow for home-based economic activity). Under institutional support the Group suggested various roles for government, local authorities, NGOs, the private sector and communities in each of the three areas of concern. All efforts, the Expert Group concludes, must be placed in an economic and institutional framework, for without support and co-operation, the enabling approaches suggested here and in the Global Strategy for Shelter cannot be implemented.

■ Financing Human Settlements Development and Management in Developing Countries: A comparative overview of case studies, iv plus 57 pp., tables and footnotes, HS/174/89E, ISBN 92-1-131094-6

This report reviews and analyses existing strategies and mechanisms for financing shelter and human settlements programmes in nine countries (three from Africa, four from Asia and two from Latin America), and evaluates their efficiency and effectiveness, identifying the strengths and weaknesses in the systems. Three basic conditions are required for the effective functioning of the financial system — economic stability, a real return on financial investments, and confidence in the security and stability of financial institutions. In this connection, and as part of the general requirement for strengthening shelter finance systems and institutions, the report recommends, among other things, integration of the institutional shelter-finance system into the national finance and capital markets.

It is hoped that the experiences and ideas reflected in this report will serve as a catalyst to and provide a framework for governments and the relevant institutions to begin to take a new look at their traditional mechanisms of managing and regulating the operations of their housing finance systems and institutions, and to begin considering alternative and more productive instruments for developing flexible and adaptable policy responses, based on a more sensitive understanding of contemporary financial markets.

As the conclusion states, "without the effective harnessing of full public and private resources and skills, it is unlikely that the required effective action can be taken to resolve the human settlements problems that accumulate as the process of urban growth continues in most developing countries."

■ Improving Income and Housing: Employment Generation in Low-income Settlements, iv plus 72 pp., references, HS/189/89E, ISBN 92-1-131110-0

This publication examines the relationship between income generation and human settlements by focusing on areas where intervention might benefit the development of both improved shelter and income-generating activities. The topic is covered in five main chapters. Chapter I provides a general background to the subject; chapter II deals with the potential for income generation and employment generation in the construction and building-materials sector; chapter III examines the possibilities for promoting income-generating activities in human settlements; chapter IV discusses the opportunities for employment generation in the provision and maintenance of basic urban services; and chapter V concentrates on an examination of the institutional-support mechanisms required to implement the proposed strategic responses.

Each of the main chapters contains proposed strategies. That on employment in the provision and maintenance of urban basic services, for example, notes that the problem lies in managing labour resources efficiently when using labour-intensive methods. Further suggestions include encouraging the private and community sectors to share responsibility for urban services, and supporting the recycling of refuse.

■ National Human Settlements Institutional Arrangements: Selected Case Studies, vi plus 373 pp., tables and figures, references, HS/76/85E, ISBN 92-1-131096-2

This publication is the second report in a series on human settlements institutional arrangements, following on from *An Approach to the Analysis of National Human Settlements Institutional Arrangements* (HS/66/84/E). The present report consists of case studies on national human settlements policy and institutional arrangements which aim to describe and analyse policy implementation and institutional capacity in six countries — Brazil, Hungary, Kenya, Mexico, the Philippines and Sri Lanka — with special emphasis on innovative approaches. The idea is to identify measures which have improved institutional performance in particular cases and which can form the basis of general guidelines, to be published at a later date.

A number of conclusions are reached on the basis of the case studies, chosen to represent different regions of the world and different socio-political contexts. There is no universal model of institutional arrangements for human settlements management, even for the same country over time. Such arrangements, however, are most effective when accompanied by clear powers to allocate resources. The ministry or office responsible for budget allocations to the line ministries carries the overwhelming weight in the national institutional framework. A comprehensive human settlements approach must be taken, rather than viewing housing as a separate issue. In many cases, informal contacts between officials in addition to formal mechanisms explain the successful implementation of policies.

There is a trend towards the decentralization of responsibilities — whether "constitutional decentralization" of power to local authorities, "regional decentralization"

to area-based agencies or "sectoral decentralization" to executing agencies. A closely related trend is that of increasing the "bottom-up" input from low-tier authorities to the national-level budgeting process. In some countries, new types of institutions are being established to bring about formal private-sector and NGO involvement in human settlements development.

The case studies make up the bulk of the report, placing the generalizations in specific contexts. In Brazil, for example, the fact that the National Council for Urban Development had control over some 30 per cent of the necessary investment funds assured it a degree of success in co-ordinating the inter-governmental effort, while in Hungary over the past two decades, responsibility for shelter construction has ceased to be solely a public-sector responsibility. In Kenya, the District Development Focus recently adopted as an approach to development, particularly in rural areas, allows for decentralization in decision-making and the selection of development priorities.

■ **Roles, Responsibilities and Capabilities for the Management of Human Settlements: Recent trends and future prospects**, iii plus 61 pp., bibliography, HS/199/90E, ISBN 92-1-131117-9

At its twelfth session, the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements reviewed a theme paper on the roles, responsibilities and capabilities of governmental and non-governmental sectors in the field of human settlements. This publication, based on the text of that theme paper, has been prepared for the purpose of disseminating the information and the operational conclusions contained in the theme paper to a wider audience of policy-makers, researchers and practitioners in developed and developing countries. It identifies recent policy and institutional innovations in the management of human settlements, in line with the "enabling" strategy adopted by the Commission at its tenth session and the principles of the GSS. Its main focus is the identification of the range of innovations initiated and implemented to improve through various forms of partnership and co-operation between the governmental and non-governmental sectors, the efficiency of human settlements management, so as to provide an effective, sustainable and equitable response to the settlement needs of all income groups.

Analysis of the varied material collected has led to the identification of three main groups of actors — the public sector, the private sector and the community sector. Their roles are described in the report in terms of their potential for interaction and in light of the innovative approaches that recent experience suggests. Finally, the report outlines practical options for national and international action.

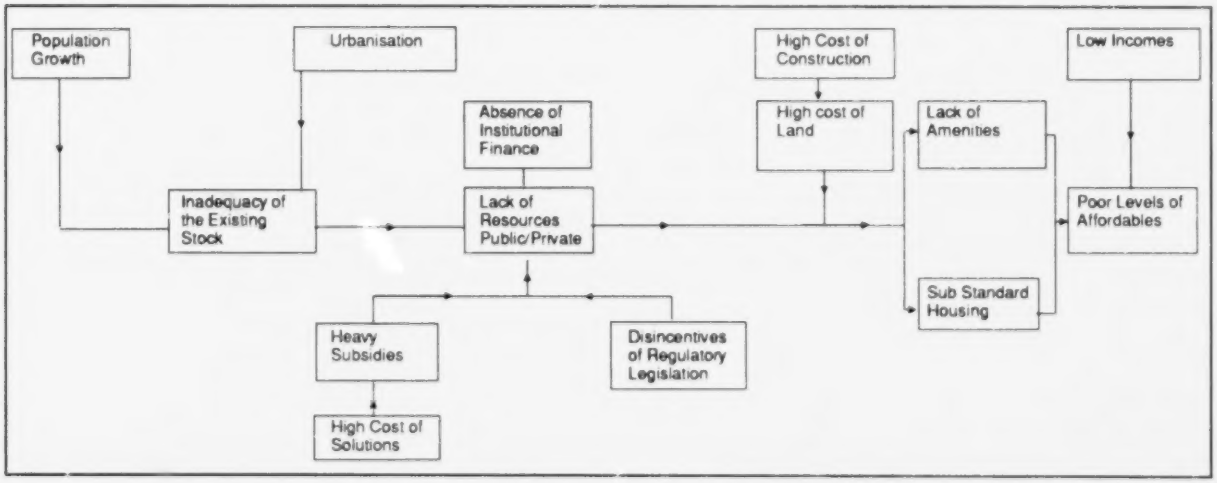
The concluding section summarizes the report's main conclusions and lists avenues for international action, focusing on support programmes for decentralization, training and institutional development. These same points are taken up in detail in the resolution adopted by the twelfth session of the Commission on "Roles, responsibilities and capabilities of governmental and non-governmental sectors in the field of human settlements", which is annexed to the report.

■ **Shelter in the 1990s: The Work of the Commission on Human Settlements at its Twelfth Session**, x plus 503 pp., tables and figures, HS/196/90E, ISBN 92-1-131120-9

The twelfth session of the Commission on Human Settlements, held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 24 April to 3 May 1989 focused mainly on the GSS, which had been adopted four months earlier by the General Assembly. Beginning with the opening remarks of the Chairman of the eleventh session, continuing through the documentation and discussion thereof, right through to the closing remarks of the Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat) this emphasis is evident. Thus this publication has been produced to provide a full account of the session and also to facilitate further discussion of the ways to achieve the target of the Global Strategy for Shelter.

It contains in English the text of the speeches, all the documentation before the Commission, and summaries of the debates and discussions. This single publication therefore includes not only the material found in the much slimmer official Report (A/44/8), but also the background material and reactions to various agenda items. This comprehensive document provides an indispensable reference work for all those involved in meeting the target of the Strategy — shelter for all by the year 2000.

Housing Issues Flow Diagram



■ **Women of Kibwezi: A case study of the Kibwezi Women's Integrated Rural Development Programme**, v plus 69 pp., tables and figures, maps, bibliography, HS/165/89E, ISBN 92-1-131123-3

This is the story of a large group of destitute, desperate and legally landless women who, with the guidance and co-operation of the Kenya Government, some NGOs and United Nations and other international agencies, implemented an integrated multilevel and multidisciplinary, ecologically-sound development process which met their overall basic needs of food, health, shelter and cash income. This approach allowed them, at a time of great despair and helplessness in the face of the Sahelian drought, to become self-reliant and aware of their potential through their own hard work, honesty, perseverance and willingness to accept new ideas.

These women, already organized in traditional self-help groups, had requested assistance. Their situation was assessed promptly. They were shown ways commensurate with their abilities in which they could help themselves individually and communally. These took into account traditional activities and idiosyncrasies, the sustainable use of their natural resources and the introduction of appropriate technologies. Projects and small business enterprises were initiated in beekeeping, honey and wax production, brickmaking and building, zero-grazing improved milk-goat breeding, fish and rabbit breeding, and handicrafts. In the process, the women successfully adopted formerly exclusively male occupations and acquired considerable skills related to small business management such as accounting, bookkeeping and work-scheduling, among others.

These projects continue improving and expanding. Some have branched out into other related, income-generating or socio-cultural activities. This case study relating their problems and progress considers the background to the Programme, and the various aspects thereof — with the final chapter offering realistic appraisals of various planned activities, plus future hopes.

"Perhaps the daughters they are now educating and training will join them in their efforts at more equitably distributed wealth, employment and prospects for the future. The women involved in the projects studied have struggled hard for a better life for themselves and their families. This basic improved level has now been achieved and, as has been ... seen in many third world countries, once women are aware of their own potential, as far as they are concerned, the sky is the limit."

KIMANYITHIYA

Uki wa nzuki woonthe ula mutwesaa ukethiwa uithooe-wa ndunyuni ii iatianie vaa itheo:-

1. **Makindu** _____ **Muthooi Mrs. Anna Jacob Muli kila Jumatatu**
2. **Athi** _____ **Muthooi Mrs. Tabitha Munyilu kila Jumanne**
3. **Machinery Muthooi kila Jumanne**
4. **Kambu Ukathoewa Co-Operative Store kila Jumamosi**
5. **Kibwezi bondeni Nyumbani ila ya Uki wa Nzuki - kila Jumamosi**

Thooa ukeethiwa KShs. 7/- kwa kila kilo

Uki wina maseo indi museso

KIBWEZI WOMEN'S GROUP
KIBWEZI DIVISION

Advertisement by the Kibwezi Women's Group for honey.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1990

DECEMBER

SUBREGIONAL GSS SEMINAR FOR FRANCOPHONE AFRICA, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 3-7 December 1990
(Information from: UNCHS (Habitat), P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya)

International New Towns Association (INTA),SEMINAR ON NEW TOWNS IN PERSPECTIVE, Budapest, Hungary, 6-12 December 1990
(Information from: Michel Dusarskik, Nassau Dillenburgstraat 44, 2596 AE The Hague, The Netherlands)

Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Development Assistance Committee (DAC), INFORMAL EXPERTS MEETING ON URBAN ISSUES TO PREPARE FOR DAC MEETING ON URBAN ISSUES, Paris, France, 12-13 December 1990
(Information from: OECD, 2 rue André-Pascal, 75775 Paris, Cedex 16, France)

1991

JANUARY

SUBREGIONAL GSS SEMINAR FOR PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COUNTRIES, Lisbon, Portugal, 21-25 January 1991
(Information from: UNCHS (Habitat), P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya)

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)..., INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CLIMATIC IMPACTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY, Ibaraki, Japan, 27 January - 1 February 1991
(Information from: WMO, WCP Department, Case-postale No. 5, CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland; ask for meeting form 6/91)

6TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: Urban-Rural Dichotomy and Linkages, New Delhi, India, 31 January - 2 February 1991
(Information from: The Executive Director, Centre for Human Settlements, 25-27 Netaji Subhas Road, Calcutta 700 001, India)

MARCH

SUBREGIONAL GSS SEMINAR FOR LATIN AMERICA, San José, Costa Rica, 4-8 March 1991.
(Information from: UNCHS (Habitat), P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya)

SECOND SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT(UNCED), Geneva, Switzerland, 18 March - 5 April 1991.
(Information from: UNCED, 160 rue de Florissant, P.O. Box 80, CH-1231 Conches, Switzerland)

APRIL

PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS IN URBAN MOBILITY, Paris, France, 3-5 April, 1991
(Information from: Convergences, PPM 91, 120 avenue Gambetta, 75020 Paris, France)

THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, Harare, Zimbabwe, 29 April - 8 May 1991
(Information from: UNCHS (Habitat), P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya)

MAY

International Water Resources Association (IWRA), VIIth WORLD CONGRESS ON WATER RESOURCES: Water for Sustainable Development in the 21st Century, Rabat, Morocco, 13-18 May 1991
(Information from: VIIth IWRA Congress Secretariat, Administration de l'Hydraulique, Direction de la Recherche et de la Planification de l'Eau, rue Hassan Benchekroun, Agdal-Rabat, Morocco)

SIXTEENTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP) GOVERNING COUNCIL, Nairobi, Kenya, 20-31 May 1991.
(Information from UNEP, P.O. Box 30552, Nairobi, Kenya)

JUNE

METRO WORLD 1991: International Conference on Urban Environment /Economic Development Issues, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, 15-20 June 1991
(Information from: Jennifer Dickson, Manager, Inter-Governmental Affairs, Economic Development Division, Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto, 390 Bay Street, 4th Floor, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M5H 3Y7)

30th WORLD CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES: Policies for the Protection of the Environment, Oslo, Norway, 23-27 June 1991
(Information from: XXXth IULA Congress, Congress Department, Norwegian Association of Local Authorities, P.O. Box 1378 Vika, N-0114 Oslo 1, Norway)

AUGUST

THIRD SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (UNCED), Geneva, Switzerland, 12-30 August 1991.
(Information from UNCED, 160 rue de Florissant, P.O. Box 80, CH-1231 Conches, Switzerland)

Quotable quotes

"On the occasion of World HABITAT Day let me express my gratitude for your noble activities and our warmest congratulations."

(Comrade Pouplikov, Chairman of the State Committee for Construction of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic)

"Our best wishes on the occasion of World HABITAT Day, October 1st 1990, and every success in promoting your important goals."

(International Federation of Surveyors (FIG))

"Considering our role as a catalyst for regional growth and development, we at Mindanao State University, Marawi City, Philippines, plan to hold activities that will give meaning and significance to World HABITAT Day."

(Dean, College of Engineering)

"This distinction that Habitat is bestowing on the communities participating in the self-management of their home-building will have a profound significance in popular history and will contribute in a definitive manner to consolidating the leading role, already recognized by our Government, in the creation of human settlements played by the Self-management Communities."

(Executive Director, Construyamos, Colombia — on receipt of the Habitat Scroll of Honour, 1990)

"We congratulate you on your efforts to make the public more aware of the significance of the Day's commemoration and we will not hesitate to assist you in any way we can in focusing national attention on issues of shelter and urbanization."

(UNDP Resident Representative, Indonesia)

"We can only solve this problem of homelessness by having trust that the poor are productive resources; that eviction is not a solution, but will bring more chaos to human society. I pray that the efforts of the Japan Housing Association will bring more hope to the homeless, increase the number of individuals that provide access to shelter for the poor, and influence the policy-makers."

(Sister Aniceta B. Abion, on receipt of the Yasuda Kasai Prize)

Correspondence

UNCHS HABITAT NEWS is the official newsletter of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). It is published three times a year and distributed free of charge.

News of forthcoming events in human settlements which may be of international or regional interest are welcome, and should be forwarded to the Editor, UNCHS HABITAT NEWS.

We also welcome reprinting of any of the material in this publication, provided that the source is mentioned and one copy of the reprint is sent to the Editor.

All correspondence pertaining to the activities of UNCHS (Habitat) should be forwarded to the following address:

Chief, Information, Audio-Visual and Documentation Division
UNCHS (Habitat)
P.O. Box 30030
NAIROBI
Kenya

Cable: UNHABITAT
Telex: 22996 UNHAB KE
Telephone: 333930/520600
Facsimilie: 254-2-520724

Manuscripts submitted for publication in UNCHS HABITAT NEWS should be typed in double-line spacing on one side of the page only. They will be amended and included at the Editor's discretion. If articles are used, the author(s) will be credited. If they are not used, no correspondence will be entered into. In no case will originals of manuscripts, photographs or other artwork be returned.

SUBSCRIPTION REQUESTS should be forwarded to the UNCHS (Habitat) Information Office in your area.

NGO News

NGO NEWS ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (an insert to UNCHS HABITAT NEWS) serves as a forum for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) concerned with issues related to human settlements at the international and national levels. Most of the information contained in NGO NEWS is supplied by the Habitat International Coalition. The views of NGO NEWS do not necessarily reflect those of UNCHS (Habitat) or of the United Nations.

UNCHS (Habitat) Information Offices

The UNCHS (Habitat) Information Offices can assist you in development education and project-support communication. They can also provide you with educational films on a wide range of subjects. Write to them for help in solving human settlements information problems.

Africa

UNCHS (Habitat)
P.O. Box 30030
Nairobi
Kenya

Asia and the Pacific

UNCHS (Habitat)
Room No. 1013, Block-B (10th Floor)
c/o United Nations Building
Rajadamnern Avenue
Bangkok 10-200
Thailand

Eastern Europe

Eastern European Regional Information Office
Budapest V
Rakoczi ut 7
H-1088 Hungary

Latin America

UNCHS (Habitat)
c/o CEPAL, Naciones Unidas
Apartado postal 6-718
Mexico City
Mexico

North America and the Caribbean

UNCHS (Habitat)
Suite 417, 130 Albert Street
Ottawa
Ontario
Canada K1P 5G4

Arab States

UNCHS (Habitat)
Information Office for Arab States
P.O. Box 35286
Amman
Jordan

Western Europe

UNCHS (Habitat)
Room E 6
Palais des Nations
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

UNCHS New York Office
DC2 Room 946
United Nations
New York N.Y. 10017
U.S.A.

Cover artwork

The UNCHS (Habitat) Human Settlements and Sustainable Development logo stretches across this issue's cover. Photographs are from the Global Parliamentarians' Conference on Human Settlements and Development (showing H.E. Mr T. Kaifu, Prime Minister of Japan) and from the Intergovernmental Meeting on Human Settlements and Sustainable Development (front cover, top, showing, from left to right Dr. A. Ramachandrari, Executive Director UNCHS (Habitat); Special guest, Mr. E. Heerma, State Secretary of Housing, Physical Planning and Environment of the Netherlands; Chairman, Mr. M. van der Stoel), while a scene from the commemoration of World HABITAT Day in Kenya features at the bottom of the page.

ISSN 0255-271 X = UNCHS Habitat News

UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (Habitat)
P O Box 30030, Nairobi, KENYA. Telephone: 333930, 520600, 520320
Telex: 22996 UNHAB KE, Cable: UNHABITAT, Fax (254 2) 520724

COURTESY OF CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS